

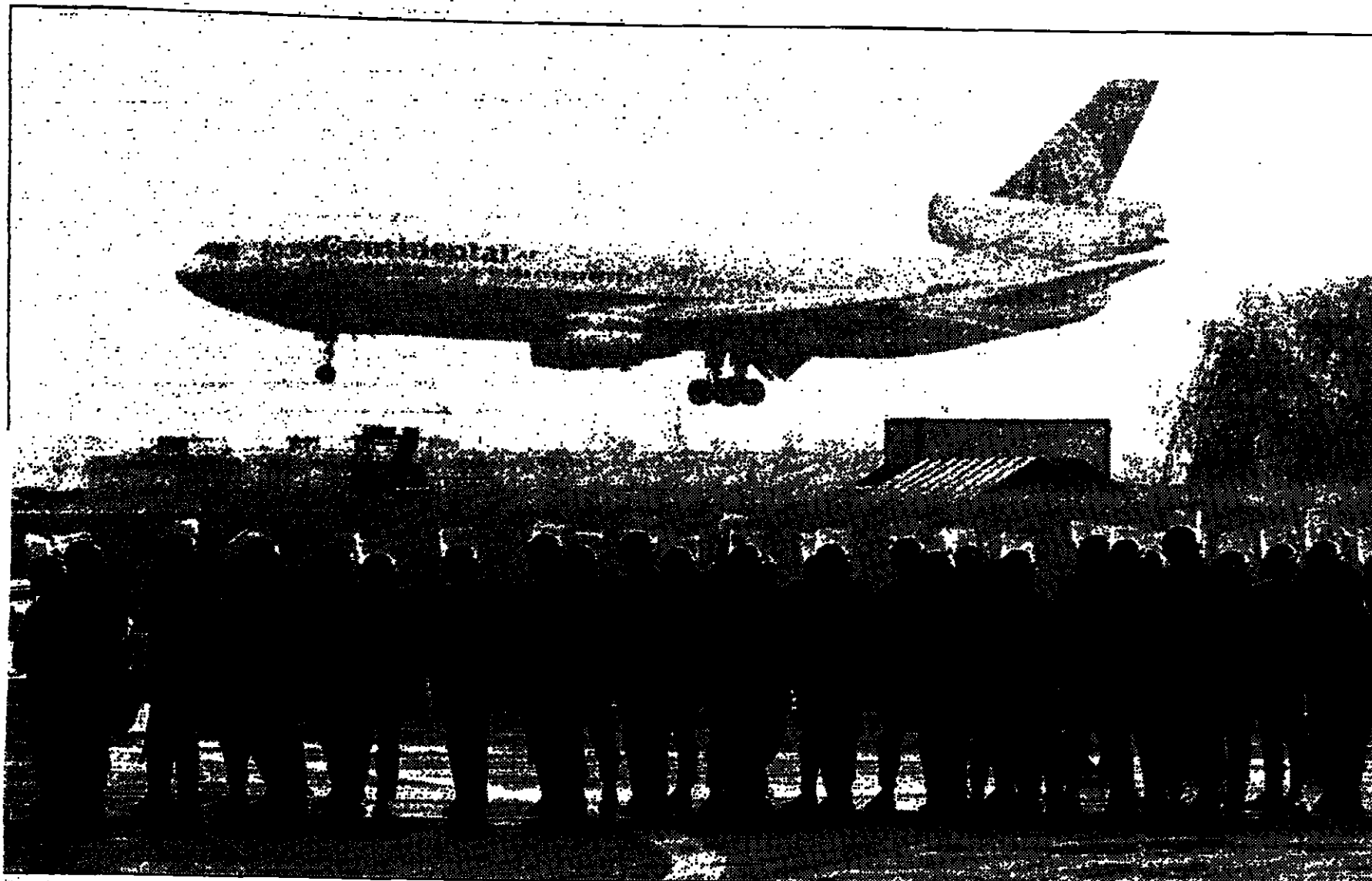
Herald Tribune

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The World's Daily Newspaper

Paris, Friday, December 8, 1995

No. 35,078



Riot police on Thursday keeping open the runways at Paris's Orly airport, which was threatened with closure by demonstrators backing the national strike.

Downturn Brakes German Economy

Report Sets Off Recession Fears Across Europe

PARIS — German economic growth skidded to a halt in the third quarter of 1995, the government reported Thursday, raising fears that Europe could slide into recession.

The recession danger stems from the fact that the poorer-than-expected performance of the biggest economy in Europe could damage the economic prospects of Germany's main trading partners, economists said. The slowdown could also hurt prospects for achieving a single European currency.

"This is a clear slowdown," the Economics Ministry in Bonn said. "It reflects the growth-braking effects of the high value of the mark since the spring, high wage raises and a rising tax burden."

In the period from July to September, the German economy did not grow compared with the second quarter. The economy improved only 1.5 percent from the third quarter of 1994, making it the weakest quarter since Germany emerged from recession two years ago.

Most economists are now looking for stagnant growth in the fourth quarter as well and overall growth for 1995 of only 2.0 percent.

Particularly disturbing to economists was a high level of inventories, meaning that industry must slow output, thus increasing joblessness.

German unemployment is already increasing. In November it rose to 9.3 percent from 9.2 percent.

Also worrying was a 3.4 percent slump in the rate of investment in plant and equipment. Factories are also working well below capacity, with the utilization rate having slipped from 86.1 percent to 84.7 percent.

Private-sector economists, urging the Bundesbank to slash interest rates to jumpstart the economy, warned that growth next year could fall below 2 percent.

"I can't see any reason why the Bundesbank wouldn't want to play its part in keeping the economy going and avoid recession by cutting rates," said Julian Jessop of HSBC Markets in London.

But even if the central bank were to reduce its discount rate below its present level of 3.5 percent, it could take six months for the cut to filter through to the economy.

Separately, in what was taken to be a sign of support for the embattled government as it stands firm against striking workers in Paris, the Bank of France lowered its main money market rate 0.1 percentage point Thursday, from 4.8 percent to 4.7 percent. (Page 15)

France is suffering from a lack of growth similar to Germany's, with third-quarter growth having been only 0.2 percent and most economists expecting no growth in the last three months of the year.

Both Germany and France face rising unemployment, and the mounting economic cost of strikes in the latter country suggest that even if both economies avoid recession — defined as two consecutive

Hidebound Capitalism, On the Cusp Of Reform

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

COLOGNE — German capitalism has reached a crossroads where its lumbering strength is suddenly being tested by an agile and innovative world of international competition.

A series of reforms and changes, some of them painful, will soon be needed as the country works to prosper in the future.

In stark contrast to the way Germany towers over all other European economies, the country's financial markets remain relatively closed and underdeveloped.

And much of the German manufacturing sector of industry has yet to complete the full extent of restructuring already achieved in places like the United States, Britain, France or even Italy.

In the financial world, Germany is on the cusp of reforms that could make it a more market-oriented place with more transparent and investor-friendly forms of business practices. But the country's incestuous Old Guard, symbolized by the way a few big banks continue to own big chunks of industry, is loathe to give way.

In industry, often held back by the drive to achieve detailed consensus with unions, more harsh job cuts are still to come as Germany struggles to remain competitive with its muscle-bound mark, often by transferring manufacturing out of the country.

The German industry federation estimates that the country has completed about three quarters of the streamlining that began in 1991. In another two or three years, when the process is finished, total employment in the German manufacturing sector will have declined since 1991 by 2 million, down to 8 million workers.

Germany's slowing economy, meanwhile, and the increasing likelihood that it will face several months of stagnation, could accelerate layoffs, thus further swelling the ranks of the jobless.

German politicians have failed to take advantage of the recovery since 1994 to roll back the welfare state, make the labor market more flexible and take other unpopular steps while there was growth.

"To best help German industry and push through such reforms," a senior government minister insisted during a

Germany 1996 An Analysis

Last of four articles

Juppé Names Mediator in Attempt to End Upheaval

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

PARIS — With France's worst industrial disruption in a decade at an impasse, Prime Minister Alain Juppé appointed an economist, Jean Manteau, as mediator Thursday in an effort to find some common ground with public service unions so that strikes can end before further damage is done to the economy.

But while the nationwide strike that has paralyzed buses, trains and Metro service in France for two weeks has failed to separate

the private sector as union leaders had hoped, another round of large street demonstrations in Paris and in the provinces Thursday showed the depth of antagonism toward the Juppé government.

In Marseille, Nice, Toulouse and even Bordeaux, where Mr. Juppé was elected mayor earlier this year, tens of thousands of people marched to show their opposition to the government's planned reforms.

More than a third of all French public employees were on strike Thursday. Schools were closed across Paris, and students were protesting at the Left Bank for

more spending on the university system. [France's Communist-led CGT union called for widespread protests and public and private sector strikes on Tuesday, Reuters reported.]

[The CGT, France's biggest union, said in a resolution that the mass demonstrations and stoppages Thursday "confirmed that the action is taking root, spreading and gaining an exceptional dimension."]

Stores, cafés and restaurants report that business has plummeted during the Christmas season. Many economists say the protracted transportation strike could drive

France into recession just when it needs a spurt of growth to bring down a jobless rate of close to 12 percent.

But the government faces an uphill battle in restoring its credibility. Many people interviewed on the streets of Paris say they are infuriated not so much with the strikes as with President Jacques Chirac's broken campaign promises.

After vowing to do all he could to heal the nation's "social fracture" and create jobs, Mr. Chirac reversed economic policy in late

See FRANCE, Page 8

Kohl Supports Chirac's Stand On Reforms

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BADEN-BADEN, Germany — Chancellor Helmut Kohl stepped directly into France's budget battle with striking public workers on Thursday, applauding President Jacques Chirac for the government's "great effort" to reduce its deficit and meet the tough criteria for a single European currency.

The two leaders also strongly reaffirmed their commitment to the single-currency project contained in the Maastricht treaty and ruled out any delay in the 1999 launch date or any weakening of the economic criteria.

"I understand perfectly well that the president and the French government, in this dramatic situation, are doing everything necessary to prepare France for the future," Mr. Kohl said after a four-hour meeting with Mr. Chirac and senior French and German ministers.

Asked if he was concerned that France might back down on its budget reforms after two weeks of strikes that have crippled rail and postal services, Mr. Kohl said he had "absolutely no worries."

Mr. Chirac, in a reprise of his Oct. 26 policy U-turn that put deficit reduction at the top of the government's priority list, said France needed to pursue the painful reforms to restore its economy to health and ensure the future of its social welfare system.

"The policy's only motive is to adapt our society to fight unemployment and

See SUMMIT, Page 6

Down	Up
38.74	51.26
51.26	38.74
1.447	1.445
1.534	1.542
101.45	101.60
4.9725	4.98

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Lebanon 1,200 L.L. (L.L.) \$1.20

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AGENDA U.S., on Bosnia, Bars Neutrality

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States is not neutral on the political conflict in Bosnia, but U.S. military peacekeepers will be evenhanded in dealing with all sides there, Defense Secretary William J. Perry said Thursday.

"I don't believe we are neutral in the full sense of that word," he said in response to a question after a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "We believe that the Bosnian government and people have suffered atrocities and killings, and we don't approach this as psychologically neutral." He added, "What we say we are, and what we will be, is evenhanded. And as peacekeepers we will be evenhanded."

New AIDS Drug in U.S.

WASHINGTON (NYT) — The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday approved the first of a new class of drugs designed to attack the AIDS virus, and its maker promised to have it on pharmacy shelves within 48 hours. The drug, Saginavir, made by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., is a member of the class of drugs called protease inhibitors that attack HIV's ability to reproduce by inhibiting the action of an enzyme crucial to HIV reproduction.

James Reston, 86, Dies, N.Y. Times Columnist

James Reston, among the most respected journalists of his generation, died of cancer at his home in Washington.

Mr. Reston, 86, spent five decades with The New York Times as a correspondent, columnist and editor. He won the Pulitzer Prize twice. (Page 7)



DAY IN COURT — Erich Priebke, 82, an ex-SS captain, leaving court Thursday as his trial for Italy's worst war atrocity was delayed. Page 5.

PAGE TWO	INTERNATIONAL	Page 6.
A Day in the Life of the N.Y. Mayor	Russians Shower Voters With Cash	
THE AMERICAS	BUSINESS/FINANCE	Page 15.
Politics and the Income Gap	Gates Gets Serious About Internet	
ASIA	Opinion Page 10. Crossword Page 4.	
Timorese Stage Embassy Sit-Ins	Books Page 11. Sports Page 22.	
EUROPE	International Classified Page 4.	
Luxembourg Remembers Its Savior		

What Price Bosnia Glory? To Start, a Head of Hair

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

BUTZBACH, Germany — Colonel Gregory Fontenot stood on a stage in a U.S. Army auditorium. His hair lay on the floor. He had bet his soldiers that they were not the crack gunners they said they were. He had wagered his hair.

Colonel Fontenot lost both his bet — the anti-tank gunners had blown their targets to smithereens — and then his hair, which had just been sheared from his head in a ceremony of great mirth.

Now, bald as a cue ball, he had a few words to say about Bosnia. The fun was over.

"Raise your hand if you think everybody is going to come home alive in the First Armored Division," said the man who will lead 4,200 soldiers from the division's First Brigade to Sector Tuzla.

Among the hundreds of soldiers sitting in the au-

ditorium at this base 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Frankfurt, not a single hand went up.

"Good. Good grip on reality," Colonel Fontenot said with a nod. "Sometime you may have imagined yourself driving through a bad neighborhood. Now you're going to live in a bad neighborhood."

He paced back and forth before suddenly whirling to face his soldiers.

"Anybody here afraid to go?"

More than half the hands went up, including Colonel Fontenot's own.

"I am," he confessed. "My hand's up."

Such preparatory sessions — part theatrical performance, part therapy session, part pep talk — have occurred in recent days throughout Germany, where most of the 20,000 U.S. soldiers pledged to Bosnia are mustering. Commanders such as Colonel Fontenot have tried to brace their troops for the reality of the impending deployment while explaining the reasons the country

wants to put them in harm's way. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry was in Germany two weeks ago to espouse what he called the "iron logic" of U.S. involvement in the Balkans: The Bosnian conflagration threatens Europe and NATO. Europe and NATO are vital American interests. Ergo, Bosnia is a vital American interest worthy of the involvement of U.S. troops.

But many commanders have discovered that such geopolitical syllogisms have limited appeal to young soldiers. Too abstract, too deductive.

Although they respond to the emotional appeal of helping to end the Bosnian bloodshed, these troops, like soldiers through the ages, will risk life and limb not for abstractions but for their comrades.

"Soldiers are grappling with the same thing that other Americans are grappling with," said Major Gary Daniel, the First Brigade's personnel officer. "What's the mis-

See TROOPS, Page 8

After the Economic Boom, Korea Grows Up Politically

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Service

SEOUL — South Korea is mainly known for its stunning economic miracle. In 1980, most people did not have a car, a phone or refrigerator. Now, Korean luxury cars, cellular phones and electronic equipment are staples at home and well respected abroad.

But in recent weeks, the world has gotten a glimpse of the political change that has also transformed this country, long in the shadow of neighboring China and Japan.

Its first elected civilian president has only held office since 1993. And the infant

democracy is now at an historic turning point as it calls for a public accounting of the ways of its military dictatorship past.

"First and foremost, we are showing the world that as young as Korean democracy is, the democratic process is alive and well," said Lho Kyong Soo, professor of international politics at Seoul National University.

Two former army generals, who ruled the country successively from 1980 to 1993,

South Korea puts its armed forces on a "preparedness" alert. Page 4.

now sit in jail awaiting trials for their part in a December 1979 military coup and a massacre of civilians that followed it. Only last month the former leaders, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, were neighbors living more than comfortably in a wealthy suburb of Seoul. Now they eat prison food and face an unknown future.

Korea is not only seeking to purge itself of the corruption and cruelty of its two immediate past presidents. Prosecutors this week also indicted the heads of seven of Korea's biggest companies on charges of offering bribes to government officials.

While there could be some short-term economic repercussions for the country in having the heads of such massive conglomerates as Samsung and Daewoo go on trial, many economists believe that Korea could in the long run become more economically sound. In the future, the most efficient businesses might flourish instead of those with the closest government ties.

This national reckoning is now taking

See KOREA, Page 6

Giuliani Rules City With Aggressive Assurance

Second of two articles



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani striding toward his white van in midtown Manhattan on the way to another appointment.

On the way he reminisces about his father: "He gave me the best definition of courage and bravery that I ever heard. I asked him right before he died if he was ever afraid. He said he was always afraid — 'If you're not afraid,

2 P.M. Time for the daily ritual in the Blue Room, which is crammed with reporters and 17 television cameras. "It's like going into the arena," Mr. Giuliani says. "I look forward to it." Today the reporters want to know once

TV, Mr. Giuliani heads home, sounding unaccountably energetic for a 51-year-old man who has just worked 15 straight hours. "Today has been a fairly easy day," he says when he gets out at Gracie Mansion. "I'm not tired. I'll be up for another two hours."

Survivors Unlikely In Russian Crash

It was a babyflier, Khabarovsk Airlines, whose plane disappeared Wednesday.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Going Gets Even Tougher in France

* Truckers added to transport chaos by staging go-slow operations and partially blocking some roads. Several museums were closed.

Pilots Call New Hours 'Dangerous'

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Herald INTERNATIONAL **Tribune**

Published with the New York Times and the Washington Post

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

A New Rhythm Method to Get Pregnant

Study Finds Earlier, Shorter Period for Fertilization

By Curt Suplee
Washington Post Service

seem to indicate that the day of ovulation is the end of the fertile time, not the middle of it."

"I think this is a very important and helpful article for infertile couples," said Howard

used to estimate the exact day of ovulation. That record was then compared with the history

The results also show that

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Canada	1-800-877-8000	Hungary +	00-800-01-377	Netherlands	04-023-9119	Portugal +	00174-877		
Cayman Islands	1-800-344-4443	Iceland +	800-903	Netherlands (all other)	0039-12	Portugal +	00174-877		
Chile	009-017	India +	001-337	Netherlands (phone)	0039-12	Portugal +	00174-877		
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THE AMERICAS

Left, Right and Center Agree: Now Politics Is All About the Income Gap

By Steven Pearlstein
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The growing income gap between the rich and the poor has become the central issue in American politics, and the party that figures out what to do about it — or makes the right noises about it — will dominate American politics.

That was the message from the left and the right, Democrat and Republican, politician and pollster, economist and financier at a forum on inequality held on Capitol Hill.

"The main cause of America's anxiety is the growing gap between the haves, the have-nots and those in the middle who feel they are on a treadmill in which they have to run faster and faster merely to stay in place," said Representative Charles E. Schumer, Democrat of New York, who organized the event with Senator Bill Bradley, the Democrat of New Jersey who has announced his retirement.

Stanley Greenberg, who polls for the White House and the Democratic National Committee, told the gathering Wednesday that nearly all re-

cent elections had been decided by "downscale" voters who swing between Republicans, Democrats and such independents as Ross Perot in search of an answer to their declining economic fortunes.

"There is no more central subject in politics today," Mr. Greenberg said, "and no party will be successful without addressing it successfully."

Kevin Phillips, a free-ranging Republican theorist and author of "The Politics of Rich and Poor," said the

reluctance of Republicans to face up to the inequality issue was costing them the support of a third of their natural base of voters.

Rather than signaling the rise of a new Republican era, Mr. Phillips predicted, the Republican takeover of Congress last year will go down as the last gasp of a Republican era that began with the election of Richard Nixon in 1968 and has now been taken over by a coalition of right-wing ideologues and Wall Street interests. He noted that two earlier Republican eras, the Gilded Age of

the 1890s and the Roaring 1920s, ended when progressives were able to ride into office on the inequality issue.

Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin opened the session by asserting that rising inequality has so torn the social fabric that fixing it amounts to not only a moral or political imperative but also an economic one.

Jack Kemp, a former congressman and cabinet officer who now heads a Republican tax-reform commission, warned that the plight of the urban poor had become morally

"unconscionable" and politically unacceptable.

For that reason, he said Republicans should make raising economic growth rates, not balancing the budget, their top political priority.

Nobody at the session took issue with reports showing that household incomes of those in the bottom 40 percent of the economy have slipped over the last 20 years, when adjusted for inflation, while all the income growth has been concentrated in the households in the top 20 percent.

But there was a spirited and, in the end, unresolved debate over what to do about it.

Steven Ratner of Lazard Frères & Co. argued that the key to narrowing the income gap was more and better training programs to get a better match between the jobs demanded by the new economy and the skills of workers at the bottom of the income scale.

But Louis Jacobson, a researcher at Westar Inc., said his studies found such programs reach only a small portion of the work force that could benefit from them.

Special Counsel to Be Named To Carry Out Gingrich Probe

By John E. Yang
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The ethics committee of the House of Representatives has voted unanimously to appoint an outside counsel to investigate the speaker, Newt Gingrich.

The counsel will be limited to examining the question of whether Mr. Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, violated tax laws by using tax-deductible donations to finance a college course he taught in Georgia. In order to begin that inquiry, the committee had to find it had "reason to believe" there may have been violations.

The decision, which came late Wednesday after more than six hours of closed-door negotiations among the panel's five Republican members and five Democrats, means that the investigation of Mr. Gingrich's activities begun 15 months ago is likely to stretch into next year's congressional campaigns.

Democrats hope to turn those campaigns into a referendum on the House speaker.

While the panel cleared Mr. Gingrich of any wrongdoing in his \$4.5 million book contract with HarperCollins, a publishing firm owned by Rupert Murdoch, the committee expressed

its disapproval of the deal in strong language.

At the time, Mr. Murdoch was pressing for legislation to deregulate the broadcasting industry and was facing a challenge before the Federal Communications Commission to his ownership of the Fox Television Network.

The panel questioned "the appropriateness of what some could describe as an attempt by you to capitalize on your office." It added, "At a minimum, this creates the impression of exploiting one's office for personal gain. Such a perception is especially troubling when it pertains to the office of the Speaker of the House, a constitutional office requiring the highest standards of ethics behavior."

Tony Blankley, the speaker's press secretary, seized on the counsel's limited scope to claim vindication for Mr. Gingrich. "It's down to a such a narrow point and the special counsel has been limited to that narrow point," he said. "This can only be very gratifying for us."

"Obviously I'm pleased by the unanimous, bipartisan action of the ethics committee and I am confident after the committee examines the remaining charge it, too, will be dismissed," Mr. Gingrich said.

But the committee's letter to Mr. Gingrich was far from the clean bill of health that Mr. Blankley sought to portray.

The committee also found that Mr. Gingrich had violated House rules in three other instances by allowing a political adviser, Joseph Gayford, to work out of his congressional office and by twice using the House floor to promote the sale of videotapes of his college course and a political meeting sponsored by GOPAC, a political action committee that he once headed. In each of those instances, the committee voted against taking any action.

The committee also noted that it was "aware" of allegations that surfaced last week that GOPAC violated federal election laws and that there were apparent links between contributions to GOPAC and Mr. Gingrich's congressional activities.

The committee's action begins a new phase of the investigation into Mr. Gingrich's activities that could result in the committee filing formal charges against him. If charges are filed, Mr. Gingrich would have a formal hearing to present a defense. Any major disciplinary action, ranging from reprimand to expulsion, would be decided by the full House.



President Clinton vetoing the budget plan. He used a pen Lyndon Johnson used 30 years ago for health-care bills.

Clinton Budget Veto Hits Special Interests

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's veto of the Republican balanced-budget package dims the tax-relief hopes of special interests, ranging from airline companies to restaurant owners to funeral directors.

Lobbyists who, after months of behind-the-scenes effort, cleared hurdles in both the House and Senate and won a place for their provisions in the budget bill now face the prospect of starting all over.

And their chances of getting their provisions into any compromise between Mr. Clinton and Congress are slimmer because the president made the breaks, many of which had bipartisan support, an issue in the budget fight.

"The bill provides unwarranted benefits to corporations and new tax breaks for special interests," Mr. Clinton said Wednesday in his veto message to Congress.

"The Republican bill contains dozens of special tax breaks for particular taxpayers and special interests," he added.

"These special-interest favors for the well-connected are inappropriate in this deficit-reduction bill. Now is the time to close loopholes and special-interest provisions, not open up new ones."

The administration has targeted nearly 30 special-interest provisions, which would cost the government more than \$3 billion in revenue over seven years.

This kind of scrutiny will make it more difficult for such provisions as one sought by funeral directors — an increase in the death benefits that can be received tax-free from burial insurance policies.

A White House statement elaborating on Mr. Clinton's reasons for vetoing the budget specifically cited the bill's repeal of a statute known as Section 956A, at a cost of \$244 million over seven years. Enacted in Mr. Clinton's 1993 budget, Section 956A prevents U.S.-based multinational corporations from squirreling profits in overseas tax havens and was intended to reduce the incentive for moving manufacturing plants to foreign countries.

Also targeted was a two-year extension of relief for airlines from the excise tax on fuel. Airlines' profitability has improved and they do not need the break, the administration argues.

Korean Airline Admits Illegal Contributions

LOS ANGELES — Korean Airlines pleaded guilty to federal charges of making illegal campaign contributions to the 1992 campaign of Representative Jay C. Kim, Republican of California.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen A. Mansfield said the airline had "agreed to cooperate in an ongoing criminal investigation into campaign finance funds."

Mr. Mansfield did not disclose the focus of the investigation, but it is known that Mr. Kim, an advocate of campaign finance reform, became the target of a probe into possible election, tax and labor-law violations after the Los Angeles Times reported he secretly used \$485,000 from his engineering corporation to finance his 1992 campaign.

Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton, at the first White House conference on AIDS: "A cure and a vaccine: That must be our first and top priority."

Away From Politics

• The new judge in the Oklahoma City bombing case will hear first, next Wednesday, a motion by news organizations to gain access to sealed documents. Judge Richard Matsch was named to the case Monday. (AP)

• Bernard Amos, who had been paroled four times, was executed in Huntsville, Texas, for fatally shooting a Dallas police officer almost eight years ago. He said his life was being taken in error. (AP)

• Erik Menendez admitted on the stand in Los Angeles, as he did in his first murder trial, that he shot his parents to death, saying he did so because he was afraid his father would kill him. His brother Lyle listened intently to the testimony Wednesday. Their first trial ended with a deadlocked jury. (AP)

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Taking a Hand to Child-Rearing Two-Thirds of Parents Polled Don't Spare Spankings

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Most American parents use shouting, timeouts and spanking with a bare hand to discipline their children, a poll shows.

More severe forms of discipline appear to be much less acceptable, according to the Gallup poll.

One in five of the 1,000 parents surveyed reported hitting their kids on the bottom with a belt or trash, and one in 20 admitted striking their child elsewhere on the body with a hard object. The poll on child discipline found that 85 percent of parents said they had used "timeouts," or sent a child to his or her room, this year.

Ten percent said they had shaken the child.

Among the poll's findings:

• Eighty-five percent said they had spanked the child.

• About 65 percent said they had spanked the child with a bare hand.

• About 50 percent said they had slapped their child on the hand, arm or leg.

On attitudes toward discipline and child-rearing, half the parents agreed with the statement that it is sometimes necessary to discipline a child with "a good, hard spanking."

About 25 percent of parents agreed that praising children too much "may go to their heads."

Limits on On-Line Smut Nearer in U.S.

By Mike Mills
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Congress is on the verge of making it a federal crime to expose minors to dirty words or pictures on the Internet and other on-line services.

A group of House lawmakers, negotiating final details of major telecommunications legislation, agreed Wednesday to apply to computer networks existing sexual content laws designed for broadcasting and telephone conversations.

The provision, like a similar provision in the Senate, would impose prison sentences and fines of up to \$100,000 on anyone who knowingly transmits obscene or indecent material to minors or to public areas of the networks where minors might see it. It would apply only to originators of the material, not the on-line companies carrying it.

Wednesday's agreement, if it becomes law, would mark the first time the federal government has stepped in to control the ever-growing flow of in-

formation over American computer networks.

The issue pits people concerned that children can easily access hard-core pornography on-line against civil libertarians who say that proposed curbs could restrict free speech and what they see as a blooming form of communication and world community.

Various federal and state laws have long regulated the sexual content of printed material, broadcast shows and telephone conversations. It is illegal to sell sexual magazines to children, say certain words on TV, for instance, or make unwanted sexual phone calls. Material deemed obscene is banned in whatever form it appears.

But lawmakers have stumbled over how or whether to regulate on-line communications, in which people use computers to exchange typed material, images and, increasingly, sounds and video.

The House provision now must be reconciled with the Senate language as negotiators work to complete the telecommunications measure. But be-

cause the two provisions are so similar, anti-pornography and religious groups that have pushed for tough restrictions are confident they will prevail.

"We're obviously extremely pleased and could not be happier," said Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition, which lobbied heavily for the Senate and House provisions.

Senator J. James Exon, a Nebraska Democrat, who is sponsoring the Senate measure, de-

nied that his bill would curb free speech. Sexual material not deemed obscene could still be transmitted between consenting adults, his aides said. Password-protected areas of on-line networks, which children could not readily tap, also could continue to include the material.

Civil liberties groups and electronic privacy advocates angrily denounced both proposals as government censorship and an enforcement nightmare.

In this Saturday's MONEY

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ASIA

Seoul Puts Forces On Defense Alert

North Denounces Move

Agence France-Press

SEOUL — Citing the danger of an attack by North Korea, South Korea put its armed forces on alert Thursday. The North Koreans reacted angrily.

"South Korea's entire armed forces were put on winter vigilance and preparedness," the South Korean defense minister, Lee Yang Ho, said after a meeting of air force, army and naval commanders. He said the alert would last for more than four months.

Mr. Lee warned that North Korea, burdened with economic woes and serious food shortages, might try to launch an attack. He asked South Korean troops to operate a "crisis management system." During the period up to April 30, the military was ordered to prepare "to thwart any possible provocations by North Korea."

North Korea described the move as an attempt to "get out of the political crisis."

"The South Korean puppets, who have suffered the worst political crisis over the shush fund scandal, are getting more frantic in confrontation with the North with outcries over the North's provocations," the official Korean Central News Agency commented.

But Mr. Lee said North Korea, facing a crisis in its leadership, may have "misjudged the situation in the South."

The defense minister instructed commanders not to be shaken by "public opinion arising from wrongs perpetrated by a small number of military personnel in the past."

Last week, Southern military units tightened security after an unusual Northern military buildup of warplanes along the Demilitarized Zone.

President Kim Young Sam warned that North Korea might try to attack South Korea by taking advantage of political turmoil created by the arrest of two former presidents.

Poll Shows Coup Fear
About 30 percent of South Koreans worry that the political turmoil created by the arrests may lead to another coup, according to a poll published Thursday, AFP reported from Seoul. A vast majority, however, thought a coup highly unlikely.

The jailing of the two ex-presidents and a subsequent inquiry into their associates, mostly former military officers, has caused public unease in a country that had military dictatorships for more than three decades.



East Timorese protesters shouting slogans Thursday after scaling the fence around the Russian Embassy in Jakarta.

Timorese Stage Sit-Ins at 2 Embassies

The Associated Press

JAKARTA — More than 100 East Timorese stormed the Dutch and Russian embassies on Thursday, occupying the buildings and demanding that a petition for independence be delivered to a United Nations representative.

"They are not seeking asylum," said Vladimir Kalinin, an official with the Russian Embassy. "They only want to draw attention to their struggle for independence of East Timor."

Smaller groups had entered the embassies in recent weeks seeking asylum. The protests mark the 20th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of the former Portuguese colony.

Mr. Kalinin said the group of 47 youths at the Russian Embassy was calm as it waited for word that its petition had been passed on to the representative of the United Nations in Jakarta.

He said the youths had scaled a wall before dawn, surprising guards.

"We only want a referendum for East Timor and we shall stay here until we get a referendum, even to the last drop of our blood," a protester said.

Nearly 60 Timorese youths had forced their way into the Dutch Embassy on Thursday with similar demands, and the police said they detained 13 East Timorese youths while they were trying to force their way into the French Embassy.

Indonesia took over East Timor after its troops intervened in a civil war that broke out in 1975. The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor has been fighting since then for independence, but it was unclear whether the protests Thursday were related to that group.

The United Nations recognizes Portugal, which ruled East Timor for more than 400 years, as the region's administrator.

The protesters also asked to meet with the visiting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, whom they want to mediate with Jakarta. Mr. Lasso is in Jakarta to discuss human rights problems with Indonesian leaders.

Later in the day, Mr. Lasso said he could not meet with the protesters because of a "tight schedule."

He had met earlier with President Suharto and with a jailed East Timorese resistance leader. He said that while Indonesia had taken some steps to improve human rights conditions, "There are human rights violations in Indonesia which must be corrected."

Also on Thursday, 70 pro-Indonesia youths from East Timor demonstrated outside the Dutch Embassy, unfurling posters calling East Timor the "27th Province of Indonesia" and assailing Portuguese leaders as "human rights violators."

Japan's Leader Acts To Force Renewal of U.S. Okinawa Leases

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama sought a court order Thursday to force the governor of Okinawa to renew leases for U.S. military bases on the island, which has been rocked by the rape of a schoolgirl.

Three U.S. servicemen are on trial for the Sept. 4 rape. Governor Masahide Ota has refused to sign documents extending the leases on some land housing U.S. military facilities that landowners refuse to renew.

The rape of the 12-year-old schoolgirl triggered a strong reaction against U.S. bases on the island. One of the U.S. servicemen on trial in the case has pleaded guilty.

Mr. Ota has already rejected an order from Mr. Murayama to sign the leases, and the governor was expected to reject all other orders, including one from the court.

The first hearing on Mr. Murayama's bid, filed with the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, has been set for Dec. 22. Naha is the capital of Okinawa.

Mr. Murayama is expected eventually to be given the authority to sign the contracts himself to force the landowners to renew their leases.

He has little time left to complete the legal procedures, with the first of the leases due to expire at the end of next March.

Mr. Ota, with the backing of most Okinawans, is demanding that U.S. military installations be reduced gradually.

More than 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan are on Okinawa, the poorest of Japan's 47 prefectures, occupying about 20 percent of the island.

The commander of American forces in Japan said Thursday that the crisis in Japan-U.S. security ties caused by the rape had "crested," and he forecast an upswing in relations.

Speaking on a day when an opinion poll was released showing a record number of Japanese unhappy about ties with the United States, the commander, Lieutenant General Richard Myers, broke a long public silence on the issue to speak optimistically about the future.

"In terms of a crisis, it is my hope that we have crested," General Myers told a group of foreign reporters in Tokyo. "I don't think we're going to see it get worse. I think we're going to see it get better."

He described the incident as a "terrible crime and tragedy," but said he was "surprised" at how the issue had snowballed into the biggest crisis in Japan-U.S. security ties since the end of World War II.

He insisted the rape was an isolated incident and not characteristic behavior of "99.99 percent of U.S. forces."

He said the United States was willing to be as "flexible" as possible in meeting Okinawan demands, both on relocation and requests for forces to be less intrusive in island life.

General Myers said it was for historical reasons, with the invasion of Okinawa near the end of the war, rather than strategic reasons, that 75 percent of U.S. bases were on an island taking up only 1 percent of Japan's land area.

But he made it clear that any possible changes in deployment must not interfere with the overall number of troops in Japan or their combat readiness.

In an example of how U.S. forces have kept a lower profile in maintaining their combat readiness since the rape, artillery units on Okinawa stopped firing practice for 10 weeks, resuming it only last week.

"We just can't put people in bunks and blow the whistle when it's time to go" to war, General Myers said in explaining why training must be kept up.

General Myers said the morale of U.S. forces remained high despite the setback, however.

On Thursday, a major opinion poll on Japan-U.S. ties was published showing that, for the first time since the survey started 17 years ago, more Japanese were unhappy about the relationship than happy.

The poll by the Yomiuri Shimbun and the Gallup Organization said fewer than one in four Japanese polled, or 23.2 percent, believed relations were good.

(Reuters, AP)

Forum to Pave Way on Hong Kong's Future

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A committee appointed by China to advise it on Hong Kong's transition began its last meeting Thursday before giving way to a new, more powerful panel that will facilitate China's takeover of the British colony in 1997.

China's foreign minister, Qian Qichen, opened the two-day session of the Preliminary Working Committee and urged it to finish laying the groundwork for its successor, the Preparatory Committee.

The new committee will begin work Jan. 1, using its predecessor's recommendations to make decisions on how Hong Kong

should be run once China takes over on July 1, 1997. It is to be made up of at least 50 prominent Hong Kong residents; the rest will be appointed by China's Parliament.

On Monday, a Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs sought to allay fears that the committee will become a rival center of power in the final 18 months of British rule. Xu Ze, head of the political department in China's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, reportedly said the committee's work will aid China after it takes over, not before.

Journalists were allowed only a glimpse of Mr. Qian and the other Chinese and Hong

Kong members of the 70-strong body before they began their closed-door meeting.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the committee would issue statements on Hong Kong's politics, economy, law, culture and public order. In a 1984 agreement with Britain, China promised to maintain Hong Kong's capitalist ways for 50 years after it resumes control.

But disputes over the enclave's future political system, and the Chinese military's brutal suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing in 1989, have left many Hong Kong residents anxious.

BRIEFLY ASIA

France Fails to Mollify 2 of Its Nuclear Critics

CANBERRA — Australia and New Zealand, the most vigorous critics of French nuclear testing in the South Pacific, reacted sourly Thursday to the French announcement that its tests would end ahead of schedule.

"We do not want fewer tests, we want none," said Prime Minister Paul Keating of Australia. The tests "should never have started and should end immediately," he said.

New Zealand welcomed the decision but warned it would only be happy if the program were scrapped. "I would still like to hear the French say no further tests are necessary at all," said Foreign Minister Don McKinnon. (APF)

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Chen Jian, said Taiwan also cannot use any reason to force its system on the mainland. "Different systems should not be an obstacle to talks between the two sides." (Reuters)

India Rebukes U.S. Aide

NEW DELHI — India has complained to the United States about "undiplomatic language" used by a U.S. State Department official responding to an Indian minister's charges of U.S. interference in Kashmir.

The unidentified State Department official in Washington was quoted in the Indian press as saying that charges made in the Indian Parliament by the minister of home affairs, S. B. Chavan, were "utter nonsense."

"Mr. Chavan pops off like that once or twice or so on his own," the U.S. official reportedly added. "He is an embarrassment to his colleagues in the Indian government."

Vinod Grover, a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs, summoned the U.S. chargé d'affaires to express India's displeasure over the remarks. (APF)

Sri Lanka Warns Rebels

COLOMBO — Lieutenant General Gerry de Silva, chief of the Sri Lankan Army, said Thursday he would never let Tamil Tiger rebels take control of eastern Sri Lanka.

General de Silva told the Lankapuvath news agency that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were dreaming if they imagined they could take control of the east. "If the Tigers attempt to take control of the east, they will be firmly and severely dealt with," he said.

Military intelligence sources said the Tigers had deployed large groups of fighters to destabilize a region where the army is thinly stretched after pulling out most of its troops for the offensive that captured Jaffna. (Reuters)

Beijing Seeks to Soothe

BEIJING — China said Thursday that it would not impose communism on Taiwan in the event of reunification, nor should Taiwan attempt to impose a capitalist system on a reunited China.

"We, the Chinese central government, will not force our own system on Taiwan," said a

VOICES From Asia

General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the Thai defense minister, reacting to allegations that a Swedish company had bribed Thai politicians in connection with a submarine contract, a charge the Swedes have denied. "I suggested the navy panel not buy from Sweden because Sweden has caused a lot of trouble for us." (Reuters)

Chen Jina, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, reacting to press questions on the whereabouts of the boy Beijing has chosen to be the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second-ranking spiritual leader. "To know the address of every average Chinese and introduce them to you is not the job of the Foreign Ministry spokesman. To China, the boy you mentioned is just one of the 1.2 billion Chinese people." (AP)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Gulf sheikdom
5 Ship deck
10 City shortage in bad weather
14 "The Time Machine" race

15 Like an ingenious
16 Garfield's foil, in the comics
17 Pick up, as interest
18 Reached, in a way

19 English estate feature
20 Peale
21 Came down in buckets
22 Aloofness
23 Vegetates
24 Site of Gen. Washington's stand

25 Friesland Museum site
26 Bust
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28 "Understood"
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36 Big name in little trains
37 Hawk
38 Hardly erudite material
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40 Make hospital-clean
41 Mewling dog
42 Pirate's "last mile"

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40 Make hospital-clean
41 Mewling dog
42 Pirate's "last mile"

43 "Three Weeks" author Elmer
44 Summer of "The Prize"
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48 It's left holding the bag
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50 "Too Late the Phalarope"
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53 Chopped items
54 Tiling weapon
55 "son salta" (Pucoli aria)
56 Middleweight champ Tony
57 Fulda tributary
58 Life's partner

59 "The Time Machine" race
60 City shortage in bad weather
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101 "son salta" (Pucoli aria)
102 Middleweight champ Tony
103 Fulda tributary
104 Life's partner

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Solution to Puzzle of Dec. 7

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COMBACKSHANE
ANYWAY OVERDO
MAILERS MAD
LISH SIES LODE
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EUROPE

Multiple Grievances Fan French Strikes

Unified Aim Hard to Find

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — With workers again pouring into the streets in a day of mass action Thursday, the spreading series of strikes and demonstrations in France revealed not one cause for grievance but dozens.

The government's plans to reduce spending on social security and to increase taxes has sparked a bewildering outpouring of discontent. Although unions say their purpose is to halt the reforms proposed by Prime Minister Alain Juppé, the fact is that the unrest is caused largely by disparate groups fighting to protect time-eroded privileges.

"Everyone has poured into the breach with his own banner and his own slogan," the weekly *Evenement du Jeudi* commented.

Some commentators have tried to draw parallels with the 1968 uprising, but there is no unified political idea behind the current unrest as there was then. And although both students and workers are striking and demonstrating, there is no effective alliance between the two groups.

According to the philosopher Guy Sorman there is little rational explanation for the unrest that has disrupted peoples' lives and the nation's economy for nearly two weeks.

Writing in the magazine *L'Express*, Mr. Sorman suggested that strikes and demonstrations are a fundamentally French way of defying authority and breaking with routine.

"The history of France is full of such moments, which leave some with a bitter taste but others with the feeling that they have taken part in a war or its civil substitute," Mr. Sorman said.

Behind the strikes is a national blues — a generalized feeling of unhappiness about persistently high unemployment, tax increases and the failure of President Jacques Chirac to keep election promises.

Not all the troubles have been caused by pocketbook issues.

Women took to the streets in defense of feminist issues. Architecture students occupied a bridge in Paris because responsibility for them has been transferred to the Ministry of Culture, and they fear this could affect their job prospects.

Students in Rouen occupied their university because of lack of funding and overcrowded lecture halls, touching off a student revolt elsewhere in the nation.

A hastily convened student council demanded 50 billion francs in credits, creation of 45,000 teaching and support posts, an end to immigration controls on foreign students, a government takeover of private universities and the establishment of family planning clinics in all universities.

They also demanded the abrogation of Mr. Juppé's proposed welfare changes.



No question about this French demonstrator's opinion.

Papandreou Watch: Political Paralysis

ATHENS — Greece was gripped by political paralysis on Thursday amid a widespread consensus that the ailing Socialist prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, should be replaced — a move barred by the constitution while he lives.

Mr. Papandreou remained for the 18th day in critical condition at an Athens hospital with lung and kidney failure as senior members of his Socialist Party called for a successor and the press said the country needed to be governed.

"Greece needs a prime minister now," said the *Kathimerini* newspaper in a front-page editorial. "If the governing party can't give a solution, then the rest of the political world should demand it with all available democratic means."

Opposition parties also have called for a successor, but all moves are blocked by an article in the constitution that the prime minister can only be replaced if he resigns or dies.

Interior Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos, a possible successor, is standing in for Mr. Papandreou and will represent Greece at next week's European Union summit meeting in Madrid.

But constitutional experts said he can carry on as acting prime minister only for a limited time and on condition that Mr.

Papandreou is able to return to his duties, which seems highly unlikely.

A tracheotomy performed Wednesday allowed Mr. Papandreou to communicate. "We are all hanging on his every word," a party official said. "Until now he has only written a note saying, 'I'll get better.'" (Reuters)

SS Man in Italy Court

ROME — Erich Priebke, a former SS captain, was brought to court for the first time on Thursday over Italy's worst wartime atrocity, but a decision whether to commit him for trial for 335 killings was put off on procedural grounds.

About 30 relatives of those shot to death in the 1944 massacre came to the courthouse hoping to confront Mr. Priebke, but were kept waiting outside the closed-door hearing, attended only by the judge, prosecutors and attorneys.

Thursday's hearing was held to review whether sufficient evidence exists to hold a trial before a military court. (Reuters)

EU Budget Annulled

BRUSSELS — The European Union's court annulled the 1995 EU budget Thursday because of bureaucratic squabbling within the trade bloc, but officials said the verdict would have little impact.

It will not affect the EU's daily op-

erations or require major changes in EU spending over the last three weeks of the budget's validity, said an EU spokesman, Klaus van der Pas.

"The effect of the budget is preserved," he said. "We can continue operations normally." (AP)

Calendar

EU events scheduled Friday:

LONDON: The EU commissioners for relations with Eastern Europe, Hans van den Broek, and for humanitarian aid, Emma Bonino, attend the London Peace Implementation Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina (until Saturday).

BRUSSELS: Last day of conference for socioprofessional organizations from Europe and from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

BRUSSELS: Last day of conference on drugs in Europe.

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for tourism, Christos Papoutis, receives Mario D'Addio, the Italian undersecretary of state in charge of tourism, and takes part in the European Commission forum on European tourism.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP.

Luxembourg Remembers Its Savior — Patton

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Although he fought in many of the major campaigns in North Africa and Europe during World War II, General George S. Patton is nowhere better remembered than in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

General Patton's death following injuries in a traffic accident in Germany in December 1945 is being marked with special fervor in Luxembourg, where the general is buried with 5,076 other officers and men of the U.S. Third Army. He is a special hero in Luxembourg, its savior, some believe, for having won the famed Battle of the Bulge.

A ceremony at General Patton's graveside in the Hamm military cemetery, set for Friday, is the last of the many commemorative events in Europe marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

Most towns in Luxembourg have a street or square named after the soldier who is hailed as the nation's liberator, and one, Ettelbruck in the Ardennes, calls itself unofficially Patton Town. The U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg, Clay Constantineau, said he had attended 75 Patton-related events since his arrival 18 months ago.

The ceremony Friday, he said, will be an opportunity to bring together hundreds of Luxembourg and American schoolchildren in order to keep the Patton flame alight for the next generation.

The general's granddaughter, Helen Patton Plusczyk, who teaches at Northwestern University in Illinois, also planned to attend the ceremony along with Grand Duke Jean, Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker as well as the chief of staff of the U.S. European Command, Lieutenant General Richard Keller.

Luxembourgers credit the Third

Army with twice saving their country, first in September 1944 when it ended the Nazi occupation of the capital and again in January 1945 when it smashed the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes, the Battle of the Bulge.

After stopping the German push, General Patton drove his troops across Germany, taking tens of thousands of demoralized prisoners. At the end of hostilities on May 7, 1945, the Third Army was inside Czechoslovakia.

General Patton was removed from command of the Third Army in October 1945 because of his outspoken criticism of the allied de-Nazification program and given responsibility for a force that existed mostly only on paper, the 15th Army.

On the way to a pheasant shoot, General Patton was injured when his car collided with an army truck on Dec. 9, 1945. He died in an army hospital in Heidelberg on Dec. 21 at the age of 60.

The general's widow, with the concurrence of the U.S. War Department, decided that he should be buried in Europe.

And since he had always said that he wanted to be buried among his men, it seemed appropriate that he should lie among some 10,000 dead of the Third Army in Luxembourg.

The bodies of many have been repatriated, and General Patton's grave is one of the 5,076 that remain in the Hamm military cemetery, just outside the city of Luxembourg.

The grave was originally one in a row of identical white markers. But so many people visited it, with consequent damage to the surroundings, that it was moved to a spot of its own and surrounded by a paved path.

Apart from this, however, there is nothing to distinguish it from any other tomb in the cemetery as befitting, Mr. Constantineau said, of "a man of deep humility."

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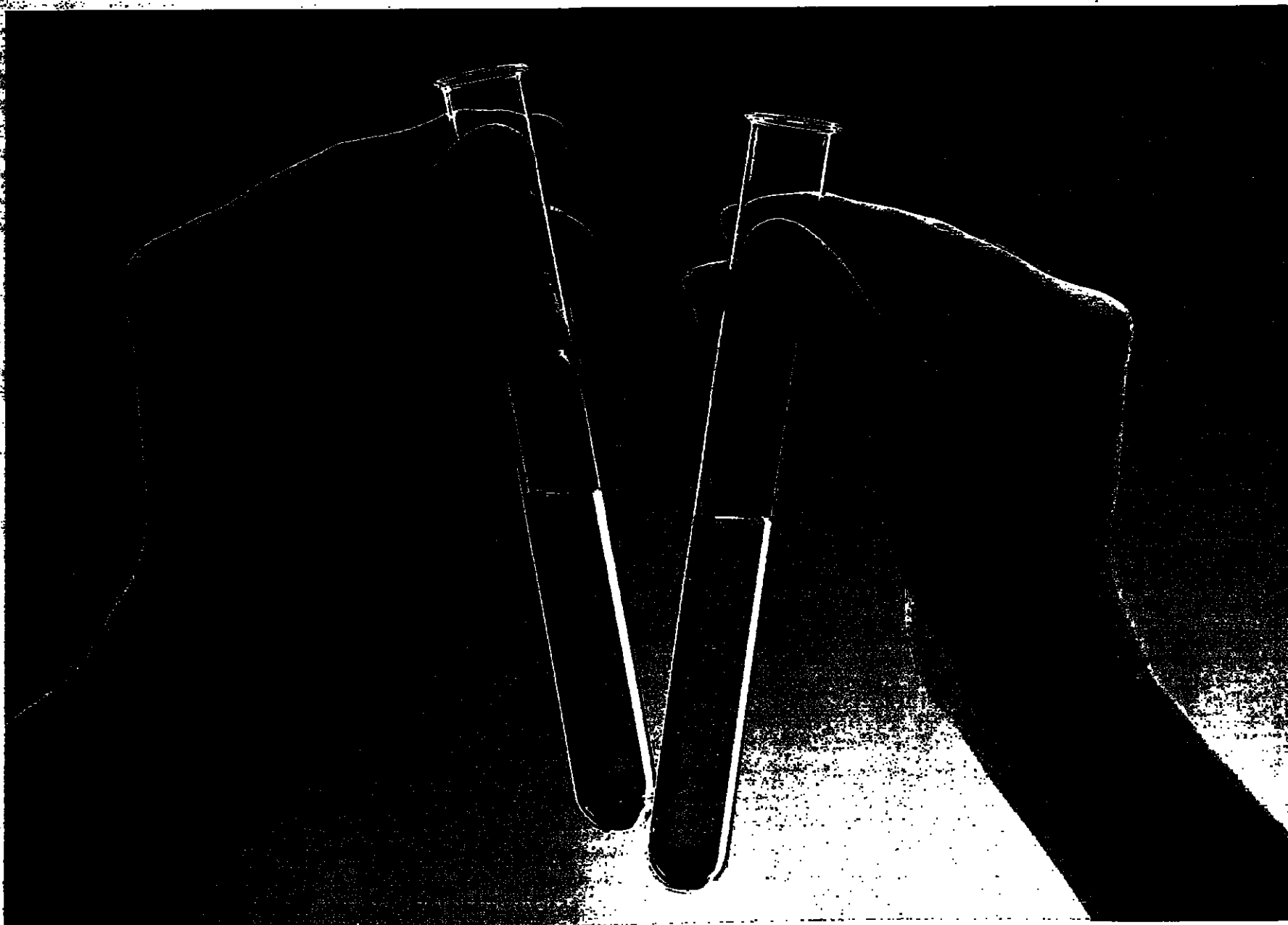
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INTERNATIONAL

The Check Is Often in the Mail As Russians Pick Parliament

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Viktor S. Chernomyrdin has never before campaigned for public office, but he has already displayed a fine touch for one of the oldest rules of incumbency: How to shower the voters with cash before an election.

The Russian government, which has often complained of being broke and has frequently been months behind in meeting payrolls, is suddenly flush. Leading up to the Dec. 17 parliamentary election, the Russian Treasury has been pumping out money to a host of angry voters, from coal miners to pensioners to teachers.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's party, Our Home Is Russia, has billboards all over Moscow picturing a smiling prime minister with his hands together at an angle in the shape of an A-frame roof. Vote for Our Home Is Russia, it suggests, "if you value your home." Inexplicably, the billboard uses the same image — a roof — that Russians popularly associate with mafia protection.

The party, often dubbed "the party of power" because its base is among the bureaucratic apparatus of the regime, is presenting itself as a centrist alternative that will preserve stability. But polls show that many voters are not particularly satisfied with the status quo. Mr. Chernomyrdin's party has seemed to be struggling and in recent weeks the prime minister has responded with generous dollops of cash and promises.

Russia's payments to 37 million pensioners have been chronically late, especially since Parliament increased pensions last summer. But as the election approached — pensioners are a bulwark of the Communist Party vote — back payments were cleared up. "Today we have paid out everything down to the last ruble," said the first deputy prime minister, Anatoli B. Chubais.

Where did the money come from? The government is in the midst of a privatization program in which it is exchanging shares in state-owned companies for loans from banks. The plan recently brought in more than \$500 million, Mr. Chubais said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, the former gas industry chief executive who was appointed to his post by President Boris N. Yeltsin, recently promised relief to chief editors of Russia's troubled newspapers, which have been laboring under the high costs of newsprint and distribution. Mr. Chernomyrdin said a new law on financial support of the media would take effect early next year.

At a meeting with the editors, the prime minister asked them not to give so much attention to extremists — or "odious candidates" — among more than 5,000 running for the 450-seat lower house of Parliament.

"You must not allow yourselves to be pulled along by

idiots," Mr. Chernomyrdin implored the editors.

When coal miners in northern Russia threatened recently to strike, their protests were heard in Moscow. The government said it would allocate \$109 million to pay back wages to the miners. After exporters complained that they suffer because of the ruble's low value compared with the dollar, the government slashed export duties.

The army has been issuing ever-louder complaints about delayed wages and shortages of equipment and training. Moreover, the bloody suppression of the separatist movement in Chechnya has been costly. The military-industrial complex, too, has complained about the government's failure to pay for orders. So Mr. Chernomyrdin promised that Russia would pay debts to the armed forces in full by the end of the year.

Teachers are among others who also have seen fatter paychecks lately.



HANOI GETS READY FOR CASTRO — A Vietnamese finishing a Cuban flag for Fidel Castro's visit Sunday.

KOREA: After the Boom, Nation Is Growing Up Politically

Continued from Page 1

place in large part because of the economic successes that within one generation increased the average household income more than tenfold. A new and broadening middle class has lent stability to the country and allowed it to both pressure the government for reforms, and withstand the shock of sudden change.

"Many Koreans are encouraged that we are capable of such radical surgery to the body politic, and feel we will emerge the healthier for it," Mr. Lho said.

Mr. Roh has already acknowledged amassing a \$650 secret fund from corporate bribes. There is much public speculation that Mr. Chun's slush fund may have been even bigger.

Along with the money scandal, the two former leaders also could face prosecution for murder.

The current president, Kim Young Sam, recently announced he would back special legislation to facilitate prosecuting the two army generals for

their part in a 1980 massacre of citizen protesters. Official counts say 240 people died in the city of Kwangju, but many others believe the real figure is far higher. An impartial inquiry into who ordered the shooting of Kwangju civilians has never been conducted, and there is sudden hope that at least some of the truth may now emerge.

"Putting these men on trial would not have been possible five years ago," said Kim Byung Kook, a political scientist at Korea University. Now, however, the "new political culture allows" the public to seek justice. Because the military has been purged of those men that were "politically oriented," Koreans also feel that they can pursue democracy without jeopardizing national security, he said.

When voters go to the polls for National Assembly elections in April and the presidential election in 1997, they are expected to seek even more change.

These elections could completely wipe out the old guard, those politicians in their 60s and 70s with con-

nections to Mr. Roh and Mr. Chun.

"We will probably see the emergence of a rather different generation, a younger one more capable, and probably more professional," said Mr. Lho.

President Kim is striving to distance himself and his party from the recent scandals. He changed his party's name this week from the Democratic Liberal Party to the New Korea Party. He is planning a cabinet reshuffle.

But political observers here say that, despite his symbols of a new day, Mr. Kim is tainted by yesterday's problems. In his effort to get elected, he merged his party with that of his predecessor and friend Mr. Roh.

Even though some are pleased he has thrown his weight behind the prosecution of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, others say he had little choice. Public demonstrations over the matter were growing.

But Mr. Kim can be credited with starting a string of democratic reforms that now have such momentum there seems to be no end in sight.

SUMMIT: Kohl Backs Chirac on Reform

Continued from Page 1

ensure social cohesion," he said.

The determined message on a single currency was part of a broader initiative agreed by Mr. Kohl and Mr. Chirac aimed at reviving the process of European integration and setting an agenda for reforming the European Union to enable the bloc to take in new members in Eastern Europe.

Mr. Chirac also won Mr. Kohl's backing for German participation in two European spy satellites, a key French defense aim. "Germany and France both think it is necessary for Europe to develop some knowledge in this key area, for political, economic and technological reasons," they said in a joint statement.

Mr. Kohl said he wanted the program to be open to other countries, particularly the United States, although he did not make clear if the American role would be an operational one or as a user of its information.

The two leaders' agenda for EU reform included the clearest call yet for

different levels of policy cooperation to prevent the Union from hitting deadlock as its membership grows and loses cohesion. In a four-page letter addressed to Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain ahead of a summit meeting of EU leaders in Madrid on Dec. 15 and 16, Mr. Kohl and Mr. Chirac called for introducing a clause in the Union's founding Treaty of Rome that would "permit states with the commitment and the capacity to develop closer cooperation among themselves."

"We want to exclude no one in Europe," Mr. Kohl said, "but we also do not want to have the slowest nation set the pace."

German and French officials said the clause was aimed at preventing a recurrence of the problems that nearly killed the Maastricht treaty, which was saved only by allowing Denmark and Britain to opt out of key provisions including a single currency. French officials also are eager to prevent new neutral members like Sweden from blocking its efforts to develop an EU security policy.

Clashes Mar Big Victory By Party of Mubarak

Compiled by Our Staff From Damascus

CAIRO — The Egyptian governing party won an overwhelming parliamentary majority in elections during which thugs roamed the countryside armed with clubs and firearms and at least 28 people were killed.

Interior Minister Hassan Alfi said Thursday that the governing National Democratic Party of President Hosni Mubarak had won 317 of the 444 seats at stake in the two rounds of voting.

Independents, including many expelled from the party for insisting on standing against its nominees, won 114 seats. Political sources said many of these had already rejoined the party, giving it a crushing majority for five more years.

Opposition parties, which won a total of only 13 seats, continued to assert that the police, supporters of the governing party and the local authorities had conspired to rig the voting.

"From the start, the whole thing was ridiculous," said Ibrahim Abaza, deputy secretary-general of the liberal Wafd party, which won five seats. "It proves the corruption of the government and the need for immediate political reforms."

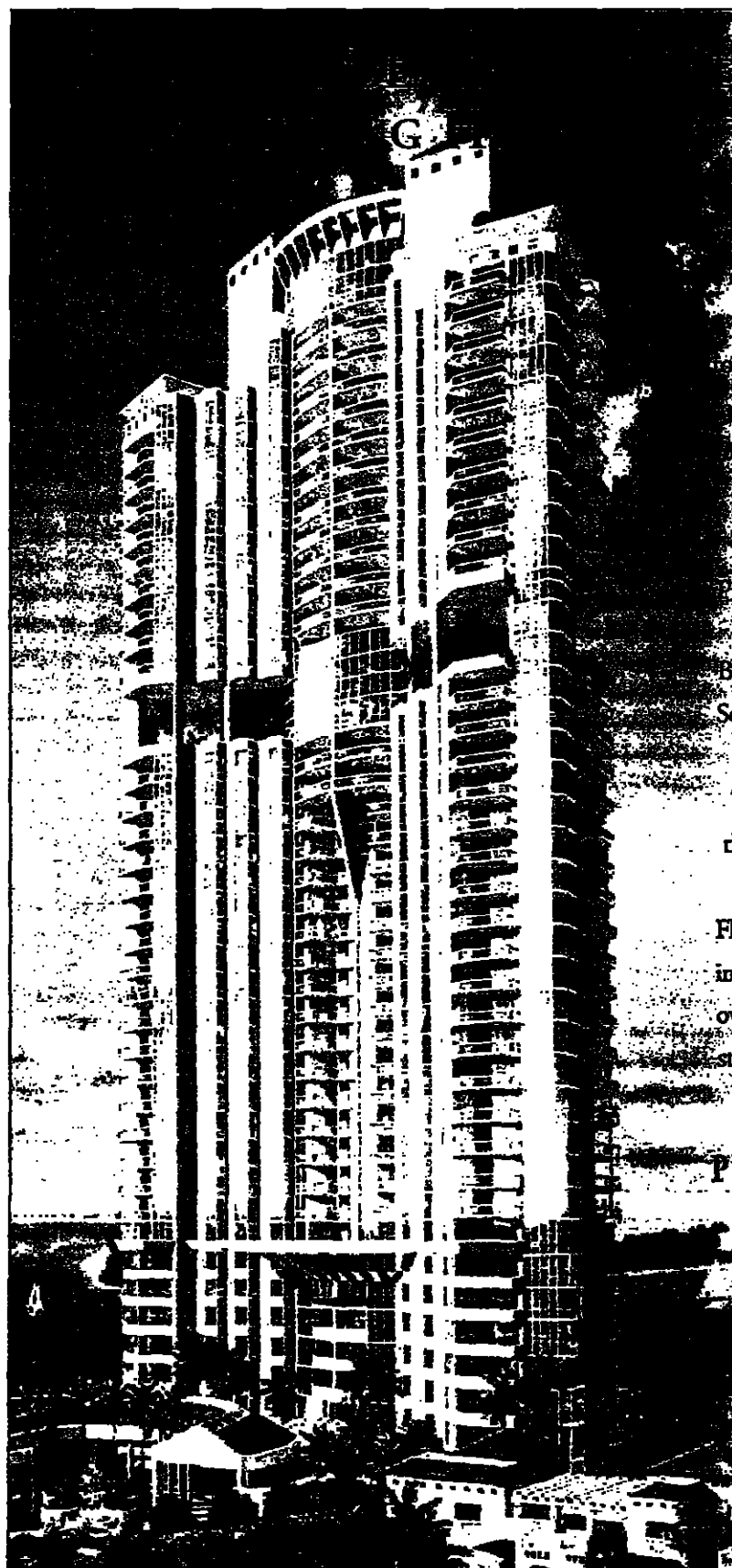
Independent monitoring groups came to the same conclusion, and the country's main human rights group, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, asked Mr. Mubarak to cancel the election results.

The Interior Ministry, which ran the elections, reported irregularities by all political groups, but Mr. Alfi gave no indication the government would back down on its view that the elections had reflected the will of the people.

At least 15 people were killed, dozens were wounded and more than 100 arrested Wednesday when gangs of rival supporters clashed around the country.

(Reuters, AP)

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INTERNATIONAL

Belgrade Rebuffs Paris on 2 Airmen

SARAJEVO — Yugoslavia rebuffed warnings by France on Thursday of possible retaliation unless two French pilots downed by Bosnian Serbs three months ago were freed, calling the threats unacceptable and counterproductive.

The Foreign Ministry in Belgrade was responding to a warning by President Jacques Chirac to President Slobodan Milosevic on Wednesday that he would "draw all the appropriate conclusions" if the two were not freed rapidly.

French officials, however, made it clear that the fate of the pilots would not affect the signing of the Dayton peace accord in Paris on Thursday, in which Mr. Milosevic will take part.

Advance units of NATO troops who will enforce the agreement are already in Bosnia to prepare for the arrival of 60,000 more soldiers.

European and North American foreign ministers were meeting in Budapest on Thursday to approve a plan for elections in Bosnia, a major pillar of the peace accord dividing the country into Muslim-Croatian and Serbian halves.

France hinted earlier Thursday that it might strike at the captors of the airmen shot down during NATO air raids against Bosnian Serbs in August, but it gave no direct indication that it knew who was holding them or where they were.

"The pilots must be freed immediately," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jacques Rummelhardt. If they are not, he said, the consequences "will strike those who are responsible for their detention and those who have not respected their commitments."

Foreign Ministry sources said the word "strike" was a veiled threat of force aimed partly at Mr. Milosevic, who has said he felt a personal responsibility for the two airmen.

The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry, in a statement on Thursday carried by the Tanjug news agency, rejected "all tendentious interpretations of the incident" and attempts to "misuse it in order to exert pressure on, and make threats against, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

The ministry continued:

"The fact that efforts so far have not yielded the expected results do not in any way bring into question Yugoslavia's sincere interest and readiness to clear up this case."

The last official word on the pilots was on Oct. 18, when the Bosnian Serbian leader, Radovan Karadzic, said they had been captured and taken to a hospital but were later kidnapped by an unknown group. French officials described the explanation as "grotesque."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization staged three abortive rescue missions for the two in September.

The French magazine VSD said in an article published on Thursday that French secret services had located the two near the Bosnian Serbian headquarters at Pale, near Sarajevo, at a private property owned by an officer close to Bosnian Serbian Army commander, General Ratko Mladic.

In Bosnia, United Nations officials reported that Muslim families in northern Bosnia had been evicted from their homes

by Serbian refugees from other areas, in violation of the Dayton, Ohio, agreement. The accord guarantees the rights of minorities to live in their homes.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo, Kris Janowski, said they had reports of about 60 Muslim families being evicted from their homes in the village of Dubrave in northern Bosnia, a Bosnian Serbian heartland.

Relief experts fear that continued ethnic cleansing is undermining whatever hope drafters of the Dayton deal had about postwar Bosnia functioning as a multiethnic society.

In another development, the United Nations on Thursday defended its failure to intervene in parts of Bosnia where Croatian forces are systematically burning and looting towns and said it did not think NATO troops would get involved in similar circumstances.

The same British forces will be on the ground in these areas for NATO when it deploys later this month as are there now as

UN peacekeepers.

"If you look at our mandate, our interpretation is we were not sent here to stop civil populations burning down their own houses," a UN spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon, said. "You've got to ask NATO this: Do they think that's what they're coming for? It's not my understanding," he said. (Reuters, AP)

U.S. Lawmakers Balk

Nearly half of the House of Representatives urged President Bill Clinton on Thursday not to send U.S. peacekeeping troops to Bosnia. Reuters reported from Washington.

A 10-word letter to Mr. Clinton stating simply, "We urge you not to send ground troops to Bosnia," was signed by 184 members, just 34 short of a 218 majority.

"We should send troops into battle only when America's security is at risk," Representative Bob Inglis, a South Carolina Republican, said. The letter was signed by 171 Republicans and 13 Democrats.



Bosnian Serbs trampling on an American flag Thursday in Sarajevo to protest provisions of the Dayton peace accord.

GERMANY: Stakes Go Beyond Borders as Country's Lumbering Capitalism Faces a Critical Test Over the Course of Reform

Continued from Page 1

recent conversation, "we need a crisis, a recession." But during the last recession politicians said the opposite, namely that to introduce reforms they needed a period of growth.

In broader terms, what happens in German capitalism will have an impact far beyond the borders of Europe's biggest economy. Because of Germany's sway over the rest of the continent, its slowness or inability to make critical changes in certain sectors could be a drag on the pace of change elsewhere in Europe.

Among financial institutions, German banks and insurers undoubtedly enjoy the most clout in Europe because of their capital strength. But German financial markets remain a clubby affair.

The Frankfurt bourse is small compared to the City of London or Wall Street, the interests of minority investors are not well looked after, insider trading has been rampant until laws were

toughened only very recently, and a few big institutions such as Deutsche Bank still enjoy enormous power.

"In the United States," said David Hermann, chairman of Adam Opel AG, the German subsidiary of General Motors with \$20 billion of annual revenues, "the share price reflects people's expectations about the future. But not in Germany because this is not a real market. Here the shares are locked up with emotions and vast block control of shares by the big banks."

So there is no shareholder who can vote with his feet."

Few questions are as controversial in Germany — as that of the way big banks retain large stakes in industry. Deutsche Bank has had its reputation tarnished over the past year by the Metallgesellschaft scandal, where the bank was both a lender and a shareholder, and by the huge losses and allegations of management failures at Daimler-Benz, which is

24.4 percent owned by Deutsche Bank.

Jürgen Krummow, a member of the board of Deutsche Bank, acknowledged in an interview that "we need more reform in German capitalism, we need more deregulation, our stock market is too small and we don't have enough big international companies."

Mr. Krummow, one of the new generation of Deutsche Bank executives, said "it would be great if we could sell our stakes in industrial companies," but he complained of "tax obstacles" such as heavy capital gains taxes that the bank would need to pay on its profit when disposing shareholdings. What is needed, he said, are "some tax breaks."

The way Germany's oligarchical group of big banks exert power over the national economy is seen by critics as holding back entrepreneurs, and even denying the oxygen of fresh capital to members of the Mittelstand, Germany's famed network of medium-sized com-

panies. For example, Jürgen Grossmann, owner and chairman of Georgsmarienhütte, a Lower Saxony manufacturer of precision engineering steels, said his company, with 700 million Deutsche marks (\$485 million) of annual revenues, had difficulty getting loans from banks because of the cozy relationship between big banks and big companies.

"No German bank will lend me money at the moment," said Mr. Grossmann, "because the steel business is dominated by the big steel companies which are in the hands of the big banks. They see me as disturbing the system, and that's O.K. with me. I am profitable and I don't want any loans from them."

In an effort to be more international, meanwhile, Deutsche Bank has shifted its investment banking to London, while Dresdner Bank has acquired the British merchant bank Kleinwort Benson. But this has been criticized back in Frankfurt, which aspires to become a more relevant European financial center.

Rüdiger von Rosen, managing director of Deutsches Aktieninstitut, the institution which promotes German equi-

ties, said that "what is needed here on the supply side is more companies going public and on the demand side convincing German investors to buy shares."

The criticism of German institutions with plenty of brute power but little imagination is not limited to finance, however. Industry is also under fire for not moving fast enough to restructure.

Reinut Jochimsen, a Bundesbank council member, blames the currently slow pace of change partly on the reunification of east and west Germany in 1990. "Unification," said Mr. Jochimsen, "produced an inward looking Germany, and has aggravated our challenges." He said the problem was that "our big companies, Daimler-Benz and all the others, took a long time to learn how to be competitive."

Ludolf von Wartenberg, director-general of the German industry federation, noted that many companies were transferring facilities to low-wage or growing areas such as East Asia and Eastern Europe, and thus exporting jobs.

"In the future," said Mr. von Wartenberg, "our competitiveness will not be measured by

the 'Made in Germany' label but by labels that show the product was designed or engineered here, but built in eastern Europe, or the United States, or Asia."

In the last five years, he noted, German companies have invested some 173 billion DM outside Germany, and only 25 billion DM in Germany. The trend is likely to continue, according to many German financial and industrial leaders.

All of this discussion goes under the umbrella phrase of what is known in Germany today as *Standort Deutschland*, a debate about whether Germany can remain competitive as a manufacturing location.

Manfred Bodin, chairman of the Norddeutsche Landesbank, observed that part of the reason why Germany's Old Guard is so apparently disoriented is that globalization has come rapidly to German industry in recent years.

"Now we have countries like the Czech Republic on our doorstep," Mr. Bodin explained, "with cheap costs, and many of our jobs will be exported. There is a moment of structural change, and an uncomfortable moment for that reason." Opel's Mr. Hermann

argues that German companies will have enormous problems because the old German system of consensus, of trade union representatives sitting on company boards, of social solidarity, may no longer function at a time of radical change.

"I don't see enough change occurring either in Bonn or with the unions," Mr. Hermann said.

"They are not moving forward and we have some very serious problems on our doorstep."

Others believe that Germany will master the period of change between now and the year 2000, and they point to the proposal to forgo wage increases in exchange for job security that was made recently by Klaus Zwickel, president of IG Metall, the powerful and militant German trade union.

The Zwickel proposal is seen by many as a sign that German unions have become more pragmatic and that reforms can be introduced without the kind of social unrest seen in France. No one thinks the change will come easily, but in Germany, as elsewhere, agreement on the diagnosis of the problem means half the battle has been won.

ECONOMY: Germany's Slowdown Sends a Shudder Through Europe

Continued from Page 1

quarters of negative growth — they could still both be headed for several months of stagnation.

Such a period of very low growth, perhaps no more than 1 percent, could further damage the chances of France's achieving enough growth to slash its budget deficits and qualify for Europe's single currency project, economists added.

It could also dampen growth prospects throughout Europe, since Germany and France together account for 43 percent of the European Union's output.

"There is a very good correlation between German and French growth," Mr. Jessop said. "What was particularly worrying about the latest German figures is that the GDP number was flattened because companies had built up a lot of stock they could not sell."

"In most Continental European countries recovery began two years ago and the speed has slowed down nearly everywhere without there being the danger of recession so far," Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, said Thursday in Hamburg.

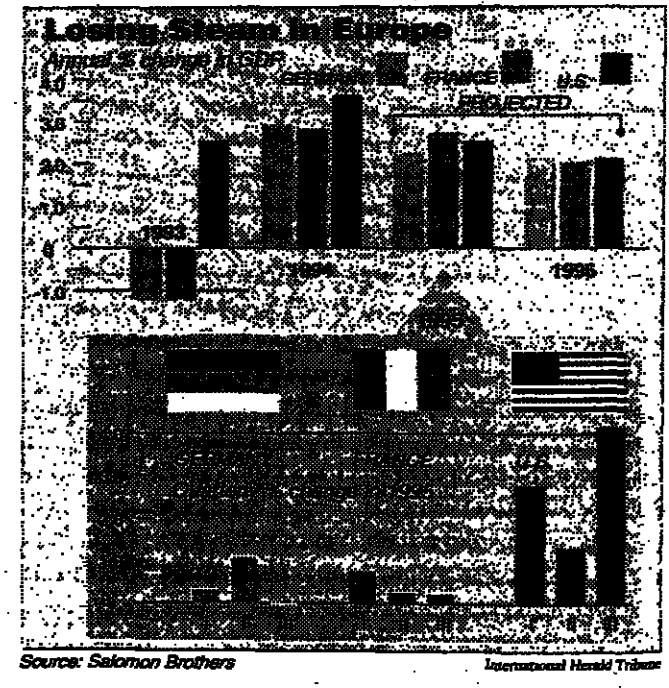
But he also warned that "unsolved structural problems are surfacing more and more, and this is true for Germany too."

Also Thursday, economists at Salomon Brothers Inc. forecast an average 1996 growth rate of 2.2 percent for the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations.

Growth in the United States would be 2.1 percent and in Japan 2.3 percent, the economists said.

"Overall, the 1996 outlook favors moderate growth, lower rates, except in Japan, and stable currencies," they wrote.

— ALAN FRIEDMAN



FRANCE: Juppé Picks Mediator to Resolve Nation's Labor Unrest

Continued from Page 1

October and said France would face two years of austerity to bring down public deficits and meet the criteria necessary to join Germany in moving to a common European currency.

The strike has sorely tested the patience and resources of millions of beleaguered commuters. Yet, in a profound miscalculation by the government,

the French public appears to have cast its sympathy with the rail strikers who have perpetrated much of the daily misery.

The strike has proved very effective because it is a reminder of how unhappy everybody is with the way they are governed," said Brigitte Chapelon, a 40-year-old clerk.

When Mr. Juppé unveiled his austerity plan calling for higher taxes, tighter controls on health

care and delayed pensions for the public sector, aides say, he was prepared for a brutal showdown with the country's 2.2 million public sector employees.

They say that in deciding to take drastic action to curtail France's \$65 billion public debt, Mr. Juppé realized he was courting hostility from public workers who jealously guard the perquisites that ran up much of that deficit — six-week paid

vacations, subsidized holidays, universal health care, lifetime job security and retirement as early as age 50.

What the prime minister did not expect, a close associate said, was how the people at large would perceive the austerity program as a threat to their own well-being, rather than view it as a necessary measure to restore financial health.

Michel Crozier, a sociologist and author of a book diagnosing France as a "blocked society," blames the elite graduates of the School of National Administration, or ENA, and other "Grandes Ecoles" who have come to dominate the political class, for the enormous gulf that separates the people from government.

Mr. Chirac, Mr. Juppé and many of their senior aides are products of ENA, Mr. Crozier pointed out, and they reinforce each other's view that they know what is best for the country without bothering to find out the attitudes of the working classes.

"If you graduate from ENA, you are told that you know everything, so why should you consult the people?" Mr. Crozier said. "This elitism, along with the corruption and the inability to solve serious problems like unemployment, has thoroughly alienated people from the ruling class."

TROOPS: What Price Glory? First, A Head of Hair

Continued from Page 1

sion? What's the scope?" In 30-minute sessions with his various armor, cavalry and artillery battalions, Colonel Fontenot has pulled no punches.

His speeches have drawn on nearly a quarter-century's experience in the army, including command of a battalion during the Gulf War.

He has urged the troops to talk about their fears and their resentments, while guaranteeing that "it's going to be the most exhilarating 12 months of your life." And he has reminded them of the oath they swore to obey the president of the United States, their commander

in chief.

With a red marking pen, he scribbled three guiding precepts on an overhead projector screen: "legitimacy," "impartiality" and "force protection."

"Remember, we have a right to be in Bosnia," he said. "We will not be intimidated. You guys are the boss. Now, I don't want you translating that into: If I see it, I'll shoot it. If a guy fires one AK-47 round at you, I want you to fire 900 aimed M-16 rounds back at him. But I want you to think before you do it, to think about your obligation not to kill people unnecessarily or damage the infrastructure."

Colonel Fontenot moved onto the second precept. "We have to be impartial. Easy for me to say because I couldn't care less who

runs Bosnia. But I have a job to do. That means we don't treat one group better than another. The moment we decide that we can trust the Muslims more than the Serbs, or the Serbs more than the Croats, we've become part of the war."

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THEY'RE CALLED LANDMINES.
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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
LANDMINES MUST BE STOPPED

موقف الامم المتحدة



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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

NATO's Evolution

As NATO gathers a force of 60,000 troops to help secure the peace in Bosnia, the Atlantic alliance is shaking off some cobwebs from the Cold War. The Bosnia peacekeeping mission, the largest military operation in NATO's history, is turning into the catalyst for some welcome changes in an organization that was left without a clear purpose after the demise of the Soviet Union, but did not seem to realize it.

Anxious not to be left on the periphery of the NATO command as the Bosnia operation commences, France has decided to resume involvement in the alliance's military leadership, ending a haughty separation initiated nearly 30 years ago by Charles de Gaulle. France had maintained political affiliation with NATO but stayed aloof from alliance military planning.

Russia, the reason for NATO's creation and long its principal antagonist, will contribute 2,000 support troops to the Bosnia force. They will be joined by small but symbolically important contingents from other countries that in earlier incarnations were also Warsaw Pact members, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher seemed euphoric when he noted in Brussels on Tuesday that "in all modern European history, this is the first time that soldiers from every European power will serve together in a common military operation." A more modest and suitable observation for the occasion is this: At least in the early hours of the Bosnia mission, NATO looks for the first time since the end of the Cold War like an alliance thoughtfully evolving to fit the challenges of a changing Europe.

The developments are much preferable to the unimaginative plan for NATO expansion that the Clinton administration has been pushing. That scheme calls for extending full NATO membership to Central European countries that are unprepared, politically and militarily, to join the alliance. The plan also threatens to draw a new line across Europe, separating Russia again from the West.

What is happening instead follows a more natural path, with new and still uncertain democracies joining a NATO operation in ways commensurate with their strength, and with Russia playing a constructive role rather than fearing a new division of Europe. France's renewed involvement ends an artificial divorce that kept one of Europe's major powers outside NATO military organizations.

Drawing appropriate conclusions from Europe's diplomatic and military failures in Bosnia, France now seems to be easing away from its old Gaullist dream of a purely European defense system excluding the United States. Further steps in this direction, like placing its forces under alliance command and taking part in NATO nuclear planning, would be welcome.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization brilliantly performed its Cold War assignment of protecting Europe and America against the threat of Soviet nuclear and conventional attack. This week's meetings in Brussels have brought encouraging signs that the alliance is ready to make the kind of adjustments that can give it a future providing for the new security needs of an undivided Europe.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Unhappy Economic Truth

By all the traditional measures, the American economy is now performing very well. But it's doing well at the expense of the people who are doing badly. The rising tide is not lifting all the boats, notoriously, and that unhappy truth is beginning to overshadow the usual indicators of economic success.

One important piece of good news is that long-term interest rates have fallen sharply over the past year. It's the long-term rates that finance new factories, power plants, schools and houses. That drop reflects an inflation rate that's low and stable. The unemployment rate is similarly stable and, by the standards of the past two decades, low. Economic policy is, in those terms, working excellently. A surge of growth late last year seemed dangerously strong. The Federal Reserve Board has skillfully brought it under control and now has business expanding at a rate that it can sustain indefinitely. So why isn't everybody cheering?

Better performance for the economy as a whole is being purchased in this decade at the price of less security for many of the people who work in it, and of wider disparities between the extremes of wealth and poverty. The furious quarrels here in Washington over the federal budget are part of a larger issue, but only a part. More people are being affected by the changes in companies' attitudes toward their employees and the widespread sense of eroded tenure in the workplace than by the changes in the federal programs over which Congress is currently struggling. The Republicans in Congress believe the country can no longer afford to keep running Medicaid, a social entitlement for poor people, and perhaps they will prevail. But quite separately among people who are employed full-time, and not only those paid low wages — the numbers who have no health insurance are rising steadily.

As recently as a decade ago, the definition of successful economic policy, for most people, came down to two things: low inflation and low unemployment. Presidents and Congresses that could produce that happy combination were, with the rarest of exceptions, re-elected. Now things seem to be getting a bit more complicated. A lot of people seem to feel that growth has been unbalanced. People in the middle class in particular are reacting to an erosion of the kind of security of jobs and benefits that they used to enjoy.

The central job for economic policy, as voters define it, may be to reconcile continued growth with less risk to the individual. That's the direction in which the great debate over economic politics now appears to be turning.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Broaden the Search

It would have been better if the House Ethics Committee could have reached a judgment on its own about the ethical problems raised by Newt Gingrich's wide-ranging activities — from his book contract to the political and think-tank operation he created before becoming speaker of the House. But the speaker being the partisan figure he is, the committee is deadlocked along party lines. In addition, information released by the Federal Election Commission in its lawsuit against GOPAC, the central organization of the Gingrich machine, has raised new questions about Mr. Gingrich's stewardship of his own operations.

At the least, it has made an arguable case that GOPAC should have registered earlier as a federal political action committee and subjected itself to the disclosure requirements other comparably placed groups observed. And it has said that GOPAC actively and improperly helped Mr. Gingrich win reelection in a tough race in 1990. Here, its evidence is far from conclusive, but the questions are serious.

In addition, the FEC filing included information that Mr. Gingrich may have written to the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency about asbestos lawsuits after receiving a complaint, attached to a \$10,000 GOPAC contribution, from a businessman unhappy about the impact of federal asbestos regulation on his business. Finally, there are the ties between Republican Ethics

Committee members and GOPAC, which are not necessarily strong enough to require them to step down but have made a very thorny situation worse.

As a result of this mixed bag of business and the Democrats' partisan ferocity, the Republicans on the Ethics Committee decided that some sort of outside counsel should be called in to assess the evidence. They would have this counsel look only into whether a college course Mr. Gingrich taught was an arm of GOPAC, which would have been a violation of the tax law, a mandate that seems to us too narrow.

The purpose of having an outside counsel is to guarantee that the basic issues in the case are adjudged fairly. And at this point it seems reasonable that a counsel have the authority to look into GOPAC's broader activities, including the matters raised by the FEC. It is important that this should be done without authorizing a fishing expedition — only providing enough reach so the counsel can answer the basic questions raised in this case.

The proliferation of special counsels and prosecutors is not a good thing. There are dangers of runaway investigations that go on forever. But the Ethics Committee has been unable to get its job done. Now, an outsider, chosen jointly by both political parties and given a proper mandate, is required to fairly investigate what clearly needs looking into.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Real Steps Toward a Stronger U.S.-EU Partnership

By Stuart E. Eizenstat

The writer is U.S. ambassador to the European Union

BRUSSELS — A new trans-Atlantic agenda was signed by President Bill Clinton, President Jacques Santer of the European Commission and Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain and president of the European Council, at the U.S.-European Union summit meeting in Madrid last Sunday. But why now, and does it really amount to anything new?

It had to be done now to make the U.S.-EU relationship more vital in response to five factors that converged toward the beginning of this year:

First was concern about the effect of the Cold War's end and the disappearance of the common foe around which so much of the U.S.-European relationship had revolved. Second, the inability of Europe to stop the fighting in Bosnia dramatized the need for continued U.S. involvement in Europe's security.

Third, Europe noticed the increased focus of the U.S. business community and the administration's diplomatic energies on the growth markets of China and Japan. Fourth, in both the United States and Europe, governments were focusing increasingly on long-neglected internal problems to the potential detriment, many feared, of the trans-Atlantic relationship. Fifth, Europe believed the 1994 U.S. congressional elections had tilted congressional attitudes in a less internationalist direction.

The Clinton administration responded with a visionary speech in June by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who expressed his belief that "the partnership that brought us to this hopeful point in history will continue to shape the future as boldly as it shaped the past." The call was taken up two weeks later at the U.S.-EU summit meeting in Washington to develop a new agenda to bring the United States and Europe together.

The new trans-Atlantic agenda represents the U.S. and EU commitment to relate to each other in a different manner, as joint action partners across a wide range of shared responsibilities. Signed by Mr. Clinton, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Santer, the 1995 agenda and action plan move our relationship from consultation to joint action around the globe. A senior-level group will oversee implementation of the agenda, prepare biannual U.S.-EU summit meetings and update the action plan as a living document to encompass new challenges.

The United States and the European Union will work together on a broad political agenda to promote peace, stability, democracy and development in Europe and around the world.

As partners, we will join in the post-war reconstruction and civilian implementation of the Bosnia peace accord.

We have committed ourselves to new ways to support the Middle East peace process, including the first joint call to the Arab boycott of Israel, coordination on the ground of our Palestinian assistance programs and the further opening of our markets to Palestinian goods.

We have decided to work closely together to reduce the dangers of nuclear proliferation and to promote international arms control. The EU will join the United States and regional powers in funding the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization.

We will launch a new global network to track communicable diseases and cooperate on HIV/AIDS research and development of a malaria vaccine.

We are taking bold steps forward in our

economic relations. We have committed ourselves to creating a new trans-Atlantic market by progressively reducing or eliminating barriers that hinder the flow of goods, services, capital and investment.

Much media attention was focused on the possibility of a trans-Atlantic free trade agreement as the centerpiece of the trans-Atlantic initiative. It is an idea whose time has not yet come, as our business communities have told us. They indicated that, with tariffs at an average of 3 percent when the Uruguay Round is fully implemented, we should now focus our attention on the real barriers to economic integration: investment restrictions, duplicative testing and certification requirements and conflicting regulatory standards.

We are therefore launching a series of concrete steps to tackle these problems and, as supplementary steps, we will undertake the first joint U.S.-EU study on ways to facilitate trade in goods and services and further reduce or eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers. As a tangible down payment, we aim to create a trans-Atlantic information society, with reduced tariffs on all electronic products that are part of the society, interoperable equipment and connectivity among the respective "information highways."

As the two largest trading blocs, we also recognize our special responsibility to help assure a more open and free multilateral trading system and a strong World Trade Organization. Not resting on rhetoric, we will develop a package of tariff reductions in industrial goods beyond what was agreed upon in the Uruguay Round and identify areas where tariff reduction schedules can be accelerated.

We intend to go far beyond our traditional trans-Atlantic agenda. We have launched a preventive diplomacy initiative to attack the causes of conflicts by moving

countries from humanitarian relief to long-term development and self-sufficiency.

One of the freshest initiatives is ground-breaking cooperation on fighting international crime and narcotics flows. Under the rubric "no place to hide," we intend to establish a network to prosecute fugitives, improve extradition agreements and seize assets used in or resulting from the commission of crime. We will work together to train law enforcement officials from Central Europe, Russia and elsewhere to help build the rule of law and more effective criminal justice systems in Europe's newly democratic states.

We will build new trans-Atlantic bridges among our peoples and institutions, recognizing that mutual understanding by our publics must undergird the enhanced governmental cooperation we have developed. More student exchanges and private-sector linkages will be encouraged. A model is the recently completed trans-Atlantic "business dialogue" in Seattle, which convened about 100 chief executives of U.S. and European companies of all sizes to give unvarnished recommendations on ways of facilitating trans-Atlantic economic relations. Many of their concrete suggestions were adopted at the Madrid meeting.

Together, we have developed an ambitious and comprehensive agenda that will harness our energies in the post-Cold War era. But perhaps the most important outcome of this novel exercise has been the reaffirmation of something too long forgotten: To a degree not imaginable with any other group of countries, a remarkable consensus exists among us, with our common values and intertwined history, on the challenges facing us and the solutions required for a new era.

International Herald Tribune

U.S. Should Arm the Bosnians, Not Hide Behind Subcontractors

By Richard N. Perle

WASHINGTON — The Bosnian government last month signed away half its country — but only after receiving oral assurances that the United States would provide it with the military equipment and training it desperately needs to provide for its own defense.

Now it is becoming clear why the Clinton administration was reluctant to give its assurances in writing: It has no intention of arming the Bosnians.

Instead of immediately beginning to arm and train the Bosnians so that American forces can be honorably withdrawn in a year, the administration is blundering toward an ill-defined, unworkable scheme to subcontract this job to other countries.

Since America's allies — Britain, France, Germany and most other NATO countries — opposed arming the Bosnians, America will likely end up with

an uneasily and protracted scavenger hunt. Bosnia will be forced to settle for inferior equipment and inadequate training.

American personnel and equipment, especially antitank missiles, counter-battery radars, artillery, tanks, armored personnel carriers and air-defense systems, are the best. The alternatives — Russian and Chinese arms — are decidedly inferior, lack adequate spare parts and would require instructors from countries where such equipment is common.

Why is the administration so reluctant, so diffident? In part because America's allies flatly oppose arming the Bosnians.

Moreover, senior White House officials hold out the vain hope that the so-called arms control provisions of the Dayton accord will obviate the need for an effective Bosnian army.

But that agreement is gossamer, even by the low standards of international arms control. It simply enjoins the parties to reach a comprehensive agreement in an unrealistic six months. If this fails, it sets arbitrary limits, but has no inspection provision and no means of enforcement.

It relies on the good behavior of indicted and likely to be indicted war criminals who control Serbia and the Serbian entity in Bosnia. No American official would ever agree to any such arms control regime if American security were at stake.

Sadly, Pentagon officials are the driving force behind the administration's opposition to arming the Bosnians. They evidently believe that U.S. troops will be less vulnerable to discontented Serbs if America feigns neutrality.

The idea that U.S. forces in

Bosnia could or should try to wrap themselves in a cloak of neutrality is simply wrong. That is a political judgment, and the military men who make it are intruding on the role of America's elected leaders, who are, alas, all too willing to acquiesce.

Seeking protection in neutrality was a great mistake underlying the loss of 241 U.S. servicemen in Lebanon in 1983. Because they allowed themselves the illusion that they were neutral peacekeepers, the soldiers failed to take adequate precautions against attack.

America will be far safer in Bosnia if it assumes that its troops are likely to become targets and behaves accordingly, rather than hiding behind a political fiction and merely encouraging others to train and arm the Bosnians while America distances itself in public.

Those who would attack U.S. troops will not be deterred or impressed by America's resorting to

surrogates for training the Bosnians. They are not subtle and they are not fools.

Senator Bob Dole is trying to fashion legislation that would compel the administration to arm and train the Bosnians.

He is right to do so. America's goal must be to help secure the survival of a multiethnic, independent Bosnia at peace with its neighbors.

"Peace" that is merely a way station to the eventual destruction of Bosnia cannot justify even the safe presence of Americans, let alone their deployment in the face of great danger.

The writer, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, was an assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration and recently advised the Bosnian delegation at the Balkan peace talks. He contributed this column to The New York Times.

Shimon Peres: A Life's Map and the Changing Contours of Israel

By Gideon Rafael

JERUSALEM — Quo vadis Shimon Peres?

To assess where he is going, it is helpful to know where he has been. For 50 of his 73 years, Mr. Peres has been on active duty, much of it in the civilian sector of Israel's defense establishment. His first mission was to the United States to procure arms for the embattled state in the making. He succeeded in circumventing the U.S. arms embargo, establishing his reputation as an inventive hand of clandestine operations.

David Ben-Gurion, recognizing at an early stage Mr. Peres's potential, appointed him to positions of responsibility unusual for a man of his youthful age and educational preparation.

Blending vision and pragmatism, the Israeli statesman believed the Jewish people, rebuilding their ancient homeland, must adhere to their moral values and spiritual heritage. He was also convinced that Israel would reach peace when its strength and progress had convinced its neighbors of its indelible place on the Middle East map.

These became Shimon Peres's lifelong guidelines.

As director-general of the Defense Ministry, Mr. Peres was introduced to the intricate world of international relations. Sensing a common interest with France in curbing Nasser's pan-Arab ambitions, he developed Israel's French connection, which culminated in the Anglo-French-Israeli collusion against Egypt in the 1956 Suez campaign.

In France, Israel also obtained a valuable source of weaponry — and the wherewithal to develop its nuclear program, which was initiated by Mr. Peres with astonishing foresight.

Although generally identified with security matters, Mr. Peres's intellectual agility and political acumen destined him for a wider role in the nation's affairs.

Mr. Peres, realizing that the human resourcefulness amply available in the country could compensate for its scarcity of natural resources, prompted the cre-

ation of Israel's aviation industry along with the modernization and expansion of its arms production capacity.

This experience prepared him to direct the economy as minister of finance. Later, as prime minister in the mid-1980s, Mr. Peres managed to pull the economy back from the brink of devastating inflation and the army back from most of Lebanon after having been mired there for three years in costly, inconclusive fighting.

As foreign minister under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Peres probed for a breach in the Arab siege wall. The breakthrough occurred when Yasser Arafat showed a readiness to compromise, encouraging the government to free Israel's policy from the fetters of Likud rejectionism and concluding in the 1993 Oslo accord with the Palestinians.

To complete his life's work, Shimon Peres will have to surmount two decisive challenges:

He must win election as prime minister in his own right and wrap up his political history with the realization of Israel's great dream: the final settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

At present, Mr. Peres is making a major effort to reduce the tensions generated by Mr. Rabin's murder. While trying to soothe the settlers and their political and rabbinic associates, his government intends to apply the full force of the law against their fanatical hard core, realizing that, unless checked, the breakers of the law in the occupied territories could become the makers of the law in Israel.

To consolidate his slim parliamentary basis — and to sustain his government over the next 11 months until the elections — Mr. Peres seeks to gain if not the active support then at least the abstention of the religious bloc on votes of confidence. For this reason, and also for a supposed electoral advantage, he seeks to position his party somewhat to the right of the middle ground and to present himself as more of a hawk.

In his forthcoming visit to Washington, Mr. Peres probably will spell out in detail

his terms for peace with Syria, including withdrawal to the international boundary within a time span that will be the subject of hard bargaining.

The presence, activism and claims of the settlers in the territories will continue to trouble the government. Time will tell whether Mr. Peres will emulate de Gaulle's attitude toward the French settlers in Algeria, felling them with his cryptic "Je vous comprends" while negotiating their evacuation. More likely, Mr. Peres will seek innovative solutions probably not yet fully matured in his own mind.

Their scope and direction will depend on the development of Israel's relations with the Palestinians and its other neighbors, and on the settlers resigning themselves to the idea that their dream of Greater Israel will have to wait until the coming of the Messiah — and who knows what kind of map he will draw.

The writer, a founding member of Israel's Foreign Ministry, was its former director-general and ambassador to the UN. He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Face Reality on Anti-Pirating Pact

By Robert Elegant

HONG KONG — Last winter, the United States signed a crucial agreement with China after tense negotiations. As a result, Beijing promised that Chinese factories would no longer be allowed to pirate U.S.-made computer software, movies, recordings or branded hard goods to the tune of almost \$1 billion a year.

Whatever Beijing itself intended, U.S. trade negotiators were convinced that the problem was solved. No longer would tense Sino-American relations be further exacerbated by Chinese entrepreneurs' barefaced copying and peddling at discounted prices goods that others' creativity had brought into existence.

Some members of the American negotiating team, well-versed in economics but not in Asia, were amazed when China specialists told them the agreement would not hold. Yet this is exactly what has happened.

The Clinton administration recently put Beijing on notice that it had 90 days to enforce the agreement. If it does not, China will once again risk the imposition of large trade sanctions.

But the truth is that Beijing either will not or cannot enforce the ban. As a consequence, further serious strains are likely in a bilateral relationship already beset with troubles over the status of Taiwan, human rights and arms control.

Trade piracy goes to the heart of Sino-American relations. But even more important, it illuminates China's present character and its likely future development.

The central government is clearly incapable of preventing intellectual piracy — even if it truly wished to do so, and even if the ceremonial shutdown of some 30 plants in southern Chi-

na earlier this year were anything more than animated window dressing.

In China, money now talks louder than ever before, and official corruption is widespread. The national government in Beijing can no longer command the total obedience of even its officials at the center. Nor can it control the cadres of the Communist Party, particularly not in the provinces.

The day-to-day exercise of power is shifting ever more to businessmen — and away from civilian officials or military officers. Such businessmen often have a vested interest in continuing the piracy.

If the Clinton administration is serious about trying to enforce the unenforceable agreement, U.S.-China relations are in for another stormy passage.

The writer, a former Asia correspondent, contributed this column to the Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: New Chinese Rail

PEKING — An Imperial edict was issued yesterday [Dec. 6] ordering the construction of a double line of railway seventy-two miles in length between Peking and Tientsin. The cost of the undertaking is estimated at 3,000,000 taels and the weight of the rails will be 85lb. per yard.

1920: Unfit For Pigs

NEW YORK — Immigration Inspector Wallis told officials of the bureau of immigration to-day [Dec. 7] that immigrants are being brought to America in ships "unfit for pigs." He also said that some of the vessels from Mediterranean ports are so "overcrowded, unhygienic, dank, unventilated and unwholesome" as to be a menace to health. Mr. Wallis declared that although immigrants are aboard as long as seventeen days, in some cases there are no facilities for bathing. It is common

for small ships to bring as many as 2,000 immigrants. When landed, many immigrants have to be moved to hospitals and treated at the expense of the Government.

1945: Nazi Boasting

NUREMBERG — A major mistake of the Nazis was underestimating America, it was brought out in documents submitted at the war-crimes trial. In a speech made by Adolf Hitler in January 1941, he told the chiefs of the supreme commands of the armed forces that he saw "no great danger from America, even if she should enter the war." German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop assured the Japanese Ambassador to Berlin, Ozuma, in 1940 that "if America should enter the conflict, she would be unable to wage the war militarily." He continued smugly: "Ours strength is not only equal but superior to a combined English and American air force at any time."

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OPINION/LETTERS

What America Should Learn From France's Budget Anguish

By William Safire

NEW YORK — Paris is paralyzed by a strike by workers determined to keep the lavish benefits of a welfare state.

We cannot mock Washington commuters were blocked on their way to work this week by militant garbage collectors. AFL-CIO unionists resisting overdue cuts of waste in waste management.

Will France stem the tide of red ink that has reached 5 percent of its domestic product? If the United States can such a rate of deficit, it would be borrowing more than a half-trillion dollars a year. That way lies national bankruptcy.

Though not in such dire straits as unemployment-ridden France, the United States has made the right decision about moving toward balance. The percentage of the budget going toward paying interest on debt has doubled in the past generation, and — if President Bill Clinton's original budget had passed Congress — the interest slice would be on the primrose path to redoubling.

That would mean saddling everybody under 40 today with huge taxes and reduced services tomorrow to pay for profligacy now. Never have the young put up with such pocket-picking by their elders.

With every year in deficit, future discretionary spending is snatched away. In France, students joining workers on the red-ink ramparts are throwing away their chances as grown-ups: polls show most young Americans, their heads in computers, to be similarly a little slow on the upload.

The under-40 set's inability to see and speak up for its self-interest has given Mr. Clinton license to engage in "Mediscare." This is his

shamelessly demagogic campaign to frighten older Americans into thinking that deficit reduction might soon leave them destitute in the snow, and to bamboozle them with pie in the medical sky.

On Wednesday came his promised veto of the Republican opening plan; on Thursday comes a Clinton counterproposal and negotiation begins. Here's what is likely to happen:

Mr. Clinton will continue his poll-directed lurch to the left for at least another month, professing to protect the old folks, and the poor's entitlement to Medicaid insurance, from those mean, seven-year Republican budget-balancers.

Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office will reify its projections to come nearer White House optimism. The gap between Mr. Clinton and the Republicans will be narrowed further by a re-jiggering of the Consumer Price Index, which — don't say this out loud — in effect reduces the increase in Social Security benefits while raising income taxes.

The "give" on both sides will be not so much on spending as on taxing. Republicans will come down from their \$245 billion cut, and Mr. Clinton — whose \$98 billion straddle offends everybody — will at first take refuge behind the deficit-cutting, conservative Democratic "Blue Dog Coalition," which calls for no tax cut at all.

In the end, the tax package will probably be: a capital gains cut but not retroactive; a reduction in the Republican child deduction; restoration of the earned income tax credit; and a token Clintonesque education credit. Total tax reduction: about \$170 billion,

back-end-loaded, small enough to make the seven-year ball balance on the presidential seal's nose in time for next month's State of the Union address.

A nagging thought intrudes: How close are any of these varied projections to reality? What if recession strikes or inflation re-ignites or the standard forecast is cockeyed? Aren't we haggling

over figures that are imaginary, and subject to change by the economy or the next Congress?

Yes, but. The actual numbers mean little; the direction they represent means much. The Republican impetus toward balance is needed for continued prosperity. The grudging Democratic agreement to end deficit spending makes compromise easier.

What should America learn from France's budget anguish? In Paris, the Bourne is shaky because the political will is uncertain.

In the United States, investors know that impending budget balance will lower interest rates, and confidence in that has boosted stocks and bonds. Listen to what the markets say.

The New York Times.



By BELL in The Guardian (London), Co/W Synthesis.

A Flatulent God Takes On The Elite of Indonesia

By Margot Cohen

JAKARTA — When Semar talks, people listen.

That's the rule in Indonesia, where the traditional art of shadow puppetry, known as *wayang kulit*, still entralls villagers and urbanites alike. And Semar, with his pot-bellied silhouette, never fails to command attention.

This ugly duckling is no less than

MEANWHILE

a god, who advises the nobility and fights injustice. Armed with patience, humor and a rare talent for deadly flamence, he keeps enemies at bay and audiences chortling.

One of Semar's biggest fans is President Suharto. Rooted in rural Javanese culture, Mr. Suharto is well aware of wayang's power among the masses. In nighttime shows that stretch into the morning, savvy puppeteers often use Semar to snipe at the contemporary foibles of the Indonesian elite.

In January, the president asked the country's puppeteers to give greater exposure to Semar as a means of "building character." "Uplifting shadow plays immediately sprang up everywhere."

Now comes an offering from a leading Indonesian playwright, Nano Riantiarno. He uses actors rather than puppets to get the message across. But his version, ending its run in Jakarta on Friday, may not be exactly what President Suharto ordered.

On the surface, "Semar Gugat" (Semar Demands) looks light and breezy. As he did in many of his previous works, Mr. Riantiarno squeezes laughs from muscular transvestites and playful language. Nonetheless, a bleak tale emerges

from this three-hour musical comedy. The nobility falls captive to the whims of devils. Abuses of power go unchecked. And Semar, who succumbs to a power trip of his own, is helpless to protect the little people. Even his surefire farting turns out to be nothing more than hot air.

Unsurprisingly, it was tough to mount this production.

"Here, laughter and dreams require a permit, especially if done in public," said a member of the cast. The police took more than six weeks to review the script, issuing the performance permit only the day before the Nov. 25 opening.

Middle-class theater-goers made a run on tickets for opening night, fearing that the play might be banned mid-run. That's what happened in 1990, when Mr. Riantiarno staged "Suksesi" (Succession).

In "Semar Gugat," the playwright can't resist taking a few swipes at nepotism. After suffering humiliation at the hands of the nobility, Semar returns to the heavenly kingdom and requests his own fiefdom. But straitlaced life on the throne doesn't suit him.

"Who am I doing this for?" he cries. Semar's son retorts, "For your children, wife, nieces and nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren..."

Jokes aimed at top cabinet ministers also draw hoots and applause. The theater's hoodlums of those in power remains a vital outlet in Indonesia, given the restrictions on the press and political parties.

That is why Mr. Suharto's embrace of Semar — another effort by the president to indicate his solidarity with the people — is a mixed blessing.

Mr. Riantiarno points out the perils of this embrace. In the play, once Semar gets too close to power, he loses his clout as a popular spokesman. Nobody listens to him. And despite noisy demonstrations, the nobility remains firmly in control.

It's a timely message for all the new actors jostling for attention on Indonesia's political stage. As calls for reform fill the theater, Mr. Riantiarno asks: is it all just hot air?

The writer, a journalist in Jakarta, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Germany's Economy

Regarding "Will Germany Join the 21st Century?" (Nov. 21):

The writer's argument rests upon the assumption that the 21st century will be distinguished by progressively unequal distribution of income in growing societies.

According to him, many of my countrymen are deluding themselves by wanting to become more

informative and entrepreneurial like Americans "without creating a more unequal society."

However, a desire to escape the savage inequalities that plague American society can be viewed as a valid starting point for a politics aimed at a better future for all, rather than a mere delusion.

HELMUT SCHREIER,
Hamburg.

Technology and Jobs

Regarding "What Happens if There Isn't Work?" (Opinion, Nov. 29):

The author suggests that there may not be enough work to go around in the United States in the future, but he fails to specify why. This is unfortunate, for the myth of the shrinking job market is widely discussed but rarely examined.

The usual suspect is technological innovation. An increasing number of jobs, the argument goes, are being replaced by computers and machines, resulting in ever-rising unemployment. This argument is as old as the printing press, and it is incorrect.

Technology has progressed rapidly over the past several centuries, but unemployment has not grown with it. Technological innovation brings new products and opens new mar-

kets. Although the increased productivity resulting from technological innovation does make certain jobs obsolete, it also lowers prices and increases investment, raising demand and creating new jobs.

NICHOLAS BEIM,
Oxford, England.

The First Computer

Regarding "Stonehenge Enters

Computer Age" (Nov. 1):

Stonehenge may well have now entered the modern era of the computer via a CD-ROM program, but it actually heralded the computer age in a very real way by keeping track of the seasons for farmers and allowing the forecasting of lunar eclipses. Stonehenge was an accurate, valuable real-time computer.

NORMAN SANDERS,
Drammen, Norway.

BOOKS

LONGITUDE:

The True Story of a Leisured Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time

By Dava Sobel. 184 pages. \$19. Walker.

Reviewed by Bruno Maddox

THE book opens in a splat-ter of maritime disaster. Rocky continents loom suddenly out of the fog, turning crowded decks to bloodied floozies. A scurried sailor confronts the sprawl of featureless ocean where his home port should have been as his body's last shred of connective tissue dissolves in its natural acids.

That was how it went if you were an early 18th-century seaman. Fatally long voyages and deadly course miscalculations were commonplace, simply because longitude — the angular distance east or west on the Earth's surface, measured in degrees along any latitude line (e.g., the Equator) — could not be determined in open sea from

WHAT THEY'RE READING

Danielle Mitterrand, president of the France-Liberty Foundation and the wife of the former French president, is reading "Ma Vie de Kurile" by Naomine Zaza.

"I mainly read on history. This is about a young Kurd, his struggles and how he becomes a political leader. It's the story of his life and the history of his people."

(Jacelyn Gecker, IHT)



the positions of the sun and stars. Sir Isaac Newton's long-ago "discovery" became to any reasonable projection of human progress that the English Parliament offered £20,000 to the person who could figure out how to calculate it at sea.

Early solutions to the problem were as stupid as the prize was large. Humphrey Ditton's proposal to anchor a network of marker ships over the Atlantic was scrapped partly because of the realization that anyone manning such a station would probably go mad.

This prompted Sir Kenelm Digby to unveil an even more absurd plan that involved a magical long-distance healing powder that he had apparently just discovered in the south of France. A wounded dog, he proposed, should be taken on every oceangoing vessel, and a snippet of its bandages retained in London. At noon every day in London, the snippets would be anointed with the magic powder, stinging the dogs' wounds and making them yelp. The interval between the dog's daily yelping and the sun reaching its highest point above the ship's mast would establish which time zone the ship was in.

Hurting the dog badly enough, however, that its wounds failed to heal over long journeys, but not so badly that its yelping became indistinguishable from basic whimpering, proved the plan's fatal stumbling block. What the longitude debate badly needed was a contribution from someone who was not an utter moron.

An unlikely candidate emerged in the shape of the clockmaker John Harrison, a bluff northerner with no formal education and no training in his craft. Common sense, however, was firmly on his side.

While the scientific luminaries of his age threw themselves into astronomical logarithms and the invention of complex multilensed observing instruments, Harrison decided to build a clock that kept good time. As even Sir Kenelm Digby had observed, for every 15 degrees east or west that one sailed from one's home port there would be a difference of one hour. If one could somehow keep track of the time at one's home port, the longitude problem would simply disappear. So low, however, was the standard of clockmaking at the time that Harrison's solution was publicly derided as an insanely roundabout approach to the problem.

Unfazed, Harrison retreated to his workshop and spent the next 46 years building five or

six weatherproof and motion-proof sea clocks. Periodically, he would present himself before the Board of Longitude in London where he would successfully extract a stipend for further research.

Rigorous trials that involved sailing his clocks to Jamaica or Spain and back to see if they lost any time should quickly have established Harrison as the scientific giant he truly was. But he would invariably shoot himself in the foot by drawing the board's attention to various unimportant inadequacies in his clocks' design.

His astrophysically inclined rivals consistently exploited Harrison's diffidence to make sure that common sense would not prevail.

Eventually, King George III intervened and ensured at least that Harrison died a wealthy man. When his clocks were dismantled for cleaning after his death, countless redundant pieces of machinery were discovered inside, failed experiments that Harrison had simply built on top of. The entire ontogeny of modern timekeeping lay buried in the clocks' innards, every intellectual long-cut and cul-de-sac of Harrison's career fossilized forever in brass and steel.

"Longitude" is a simple tale, brilliantly told. Perhaps one of the most impressive things about the book — given its subject matter — is the sheer simplicity of the whole thing. Flying in the face of 30 years of Umberto Eco-style gobbledygook, Sobel resists the temptation to write yet another post-modern "That's Incredible!" about the days before time and space had been invented. She offers us no attack on the modern assumption that time is solid and objective; she wholly refrains from rubbing readers' noses in the artificiality of meaning; she offers us nothing, in short, but measured, nearly perfect prose and a magnificent story, an extraordinary book.

Bruno Maddox, whose reviews appear regularly in The Economist, wrote this review for The Washington Post.

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

STUDY the diagram from the North American Swiss Teams, and consider whether you would wish to play or defend four spades after the lead of the ace and another heart.

In normal circumstances, North-South would not reach four spades, but did at a few tables. Steve Levy arrived there after the auction shown.

South clearly ruffs the second heart and has very little chance in view of the acute shortage of entries to the dummy. The best chance, and Levy took it, is to lead the spade jack since there will then be an entry to the dummy if a defender wins with the queen.

East is then helpless. If he wins, a minor-suit lead will help the declarer, who will use dummy's spade ten as the entry to lead the other minor. If he wins and returns a spade, South finesesses in diamonds, draws trump and eventually gets back to dummy with a diamond to play a club. And if he wins and leads a heart, South finesesses club, ruffs in dummy, finesesses diamonds and draws trump.

Finally, East may refuse to take the spade queen. South then plays the diamond ace and

any diamond except the deuce. East cannot play a heart, so South is able to draw trump and use the diamond eight as the entry to play a club toward the king.

So four spades cannot be defeated. If South succeeds, as Levy did, he has brought off a small miracle, needing to find East with the club ace and the diamond king together with even splits in spade and diamonds. Did you spot the importance of the diamond deuce?

NORTH
▲ 107
♥ 88
♦ 888
♣ 8882

WEST (D)
▲ 842
♥ K 10 7 5 3
♦ 8 4
♣ J 7

EAST
▲ Q 8 5
♥ A J 4 2
♦ K J
♣ A Q 10 4

SOUTH
▲ A K 10 3
♥ Q 10
♦ A Q 10 8 2
♣ K 3

North and South were vulnerable.

The bidding:

West North East South
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

West led the heart ace.



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The Palmtop, the Smallest of All

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

AS an unreconstructed back-of-the-envelope man, who scribbled many a brilliant thought over an inflight drink only to find that I'd lost the bit of paper, and a survivor of the Filofaxophiles and the laptop revolution, I now face the challenge of the ultimate portable office — the palmtop/handheld

The Frequent Traveler

computer, otherwise known as the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or the chivalric Personal Intelligent Communicator (PIC). The new generation of palmtops — like the Psion 3A series, Sharp ZR-5000, and Hewlett-Packard 200LX — are about the size of a well-stuffed wallet and weigh just a few ounces. They have dinky little keyboards — not much good for serious typing, but O.K. for updating the résumé, working a spreadsheet, showing some pie charts to a customer or simply impressing fellow travelers.

State-of-the-art palmtops are powerful beasts that tackle the kind of task that would once have tied you to a laptop if not an office PC. You can upload or download files from a PC, send faxes, and send and receive data and e-mail via your mobile or in-flight phone. So welcome to the electronic edition of the back of the envelope.

Lightest and most compact of the palmtop PCs is the Psion 3A series, which packs a powerful word processor (shame about the minuscule but otherwise well laid-out screen), spreadsheet, a calculator that should satisfy a rocket scientist, plus a phone book/data base from which you can retrieve the most fugitive entry.

I can imagine using the Psion to download files from the office PC, say a spreadsheet or a contract, before a trip and update or customize them while on the road; and even print them out on paper or acetate for slides in the hotel room on a pocket-size Citizen printer. The idea is not to duplicate what you've got on your PC but to download what you need for the time you're away.

Psion runs useful software for travelers. A patience game; a chess program with amazing 3D graphics; Berlitz Phrase Book (2,800 phrases in 13 languages, including Japanese and Russian); Berlitz Interpreter (translates 28,000 words between five European languages); Autoroute Express (plots the best way to get between 7,200 places in Britain with maps allowing you to zoom in to a scale of 5 inches to one mile); and Microsoft Automap Road Atlas (spanning 50,000 places in the United States).

Psion, Sharp and Hewlett-Packard hook up to GSM mobile phones allowing you to send faxes and send and receive e-mail and short messages via SMS (Short Message

Service) of around 50 words. Hewlett-Packard allows you to receive faxes as well.

The Sharp ZR-5000 has a larger screen than the Psion and a better keyboard for typing. You can also write notes and create maps and drawings by writing on the screen with a plastic "pen" that also serves as a mouse to navigate around the screen. What you write is captured as graphic images (so you can presumably read what you've written) which you can shrink or enlarge. And you can combine text, handwriting and drawings on one document, such as a fax. Both Sharp and Hewlett-Packard have infrared ports that provide a "wireless" connection to phones, printers, and other palmtops and PCs on the same principle as a TV remote-control.

Hewlett-Packard has just launched its Omnigo 100 — a simpler version of the



200LX — with a keyboard and screen that flips around the back so that it can be used as a notepad. It uses a system called Graffiti which recognizes characters (you have to learn a simplified version of the alphabet) and, like the Sharp, can also store writing as images. You can save handwritten notes to be converted to text later, and you can also view and save maps and pictures or attach them to a file.

BEFORE buying a palmtop you might want to wait to see the Hewlett-Packard Omnigo 700 due out next spring. At the same time, the current 200LX will be updated and rebranded Omnigo 200. The Omnigo 700 will come with a removable Nokia GSM phone as an integral part of the unit. This is not quite pocket-size. But expect these gizmos to get progressively smaller.

The Omnigo 700 seems to set a new standard for palmtops as the computer function of a mobile phone, allowing two-way voice, text and handwritten communications.

Here are the leading palmtop/PDAs. Prices vary by market and models. (Quoted

here are manufacturers' recommended prices in Britain.) Many dealers discount 20 to 30 percent.

* Casio SF-890 Digital Diary. 256Kb; stores 10,000 names and phone numbers; 8 by 16mm display; schedule and memo functions; calculator. Size 16 by 144 by 78mm. Weighs 123g. Price around £140 (about \$215).

* Hewlett-Packard 200LX. A powerful computer bundled with Lotus 1-2-3 and Pocket personal finances software, phone book, diary, memo editor, scientific calculator; runs MS-DOS and Windows. You can swap files with desktop PCs or laptops via a standard slot; and send and receive faxes, e-mail or short messages. 3MB ROM and 2MB RAM (you can add up to 20MB of file memory). Built-in printer support. Measures 16 by 8.64 by 2.54 cm (6.3 by 3.4 by 1 in) and weighs 312g (11 ounces) with batteries. Price about £400 to £550.

* Hewlett-Packard Omnigo 100 Organizer Plus. Allows you to enter handwritten notes and diagrams with touch-screen pen. Phonebook, notepad, spreadsheet, calculator. 3MB ROM and 1MB RAM. It measures 15.3 by 9.5 by 2.6cm and weighs 360g with batteries. No infrared port. Price around £290. Optional connectivity pack for PCs about £90.

* Psion 3A series. From 256K to 2MB RAM plus optional memory disks. Bundled with address book, time management, diary, word processing, spreadsheet, and financial calculator. Graphics screen with up to 80 characters by 25 lines (showing full A4 page width). MS-DOS compatibility. Size 16.5 by 8.5 by 2.2cm (6.5 by 3.3 by 0.9 in). Weighs 275g with batteries. Price from around £250 to £400. Optional software includes Psion 3Fax, send only fax/modem access to on-line information services and e-mail (£200); PsWin with Windows allows you to transfer files to a PC or laptop (£80); Psion SMLink GSM phone hook-up (£40); Autoroute Express for U.K. and Ireland (£70); Microsoft Automap Road Atlas of United States (\$120 in U.S.); Berlitz Interpreter (£35); Berlitz Phrasebook (£35).

* Sharp ZR-5000 Personal Digital Assistant. Works with a keyboard and pen to jot notes, sketch ideas, or type and sign a document. One MB of internal memory expandable to 16MB with RAM or Flash Memory cards. Bundled with SMS (Short Messaging Service); address book, notepad, calculator and diary. An infrared port links you with a PC, GSM cellular or regular phones, or printers. Size 17 by 10 by 2.5cm. Weighs 385g. Price around £400.

* Citizen PN60 laser quality portable printer weighs 500g (1 pound) and measures 25.4 by 5.05 by 4.7 cm. Prints in black and white or color on plain A4 paper or acetate from Psion, Apple PowerBook, IBM PC, or Hewlett-Packard. Price around £239.

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Wiener Staatsoper, tel: (1) 513-1-513. Verdi's "Jenukka." Directed by Robert Carsen, conducted by Zubin Mehta, with Davide Damiani, Eliane Coelho, José Carreras and Samuel Ramey. Dec. 10, 13, 16, 19 and 22.

BRITAIN

London
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 493-7438, open daily. To Jan. 22: "David Hockney: Works on Paper 1959-1995." 100 paintings, gouaches, drawings and watercolors including portraits, still-lives and stage designs by the British artist.

DENMARK

Copenhagen
Royal Danish Opera, tel: 33-32-20-20. Ambrosius Thomsen's "Hamlet." Directed by John Cox, conducted by Dietrich Bernet, with Inger Dam-Jensen/Dina Mai-Mai and Bo Boje Skovhus. Dec. 15, 18, 21 and 29.

FRANCE

Paris
Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, tel: (1) 36-68-29-30, closed Mondays. To May 13: "Les ingénieurs de la Renaissance, de Brunelleschi à Léonard de Vinci." A discovery of Italian Renaissance engineers and architects. Features blueprints and models of their inventions, as well as reproductions of drawings by Brunelleschi, Taccola, di Giorgio and Leonardo.

Strasbourg
Opéra du Rhin, tel: 88-75-48-00. Mozart's "Die Entführung aus dem Serail." Directed by Stephen Lawrence, conducted by William Christie. James Ross, with Lynton Atkinson/Yann Beuron and Rosa Mannion/Dominique Gless. Dec. 13, 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23. Also in Colmar (tel: 89-20-29-02) on Dec. 27 and Mulhouse (89-36-25-28) on Dec. 29 and 30.

GERMANY

Bonn
Oper der Stadt Bonn, tel: (228) 77-36-66. "La Traviata." Directed by Jürgen Rose, conducted by Plácido Domingo, with Veronica Viñaruel, Ramon Vargas and Carlos Alvarez. Dec. 18.

Hannover
Wilhelm-Busch-Museum, tel: (511) 71-40-78, closed Mondays. To Jan. 28: "Von Goya bis Dürer." A selection of 34 graphic print series created by more than twenty 19th- and 20th-century artists. The works reflect the political, artistic and sociological changes from the French Revolution to the 1930s. Includes works by Beckmann, Chagall, Dix,



Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring," in Washington.

Goya, Klinger, Toulouse-Lautrec and Picasso, among others.

GREECE

Athens
Megaron, tel: 82-82-333. "Carmen." Conducted by Rafi Welker, with Agnes Beltsu/Marina Kriwida, Neil Shiff/Bolivar Nikolov and Mercedes de Los Angeles/Maria Papoulas. Dec. 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 21.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem
Israel Museum, tel: (2) 708-8111, open daily. To March 3: "Photography and Beyond: New Expressions in France." Documents the way some French photographers use photography in an unconventional fashion. Features works by Christian Bolland and Annette Messager.

ITALY

Florence
Istituto Universitario Olandese, tel: (55) 221-512, closed Mondays. To Dec. 17: "Maestri dell'Invenzione: Disegni italiani del Rinascimento." Drawings by Italian masters such as Raphael, Michelangelo, the Carracci, Tiepolo and Canaletto.
Teatro Comunale, tel: (55) 211-158. "Un Ballo in Maschera." Conducted by Samyon Bychkov with Johan Botha/Gegam Grigorian, Alexandru Agache/Alberto Mastromarino, Irina Godea/Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnel. Dec. 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20 and 21.

Macao under Portugal's influence. The English artist (1774-1852) spent the last 27 years of his life in the colony.
Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, tel: (1) 348-5914. Verdi's "Nabucco." Directed by Stefano Poda, conducted by Giuliano Caralla, with Giorgio Zancanaro, Kathleen MacCalla and Sun Yu. Dec. 17, 20, 23 and 28.

SWEDEN

Stockholm
Konsthallen Konsthall, tel: (8) 860-81-32. To Jan. 7: "Art as Resistance: German Painters Between the Wars." 200 paintings and works on paper by German artists who were politically committed. The works range from German Expressionism to the New Objectivity, with works by Grosz, Dix and Heartfield. The exhibition will travel to Helsinki.

SWITZERLAND

Zurich
Kunsthaus Zürich, tel: (1) 251-67-85, closed Mondays. Continuing To Feb. 25: "100 Jahre Klee: Illusion-Emotion-Realität." A survey of the multiple aspects of the seventh art, and the elements that enable him to conjure his illusions convincingly for the masses.

UNITED STATES

Chicago
Lyric Opera of Chicago, tel: (312) 332-5244. Janes's "The Makropulos Affair." Directed by David Alden, conducted by Bruno Bartoletti, with Catherine Malfitano, Kim Begley and Tom Fox. Dec. 8, 13 and 16.

Houston
Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7000. To Jan. 2: "Visions of Love and Life: Pre-Raphaelite Art from the Birmingham Collection, England." 100 paintings, drawings, sculptures and stained glass items by Pre-Raphaelite artists Hunt, Rossetti and Millais who sought to return art to the primitive simple forms found in the art of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

New York
American Craft Museum, tel: (212) 956-5535, closed Mondays. To Feb. 25: "White House Collection of American Crafts." 70 objects by American contemporary artists working in clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. Includes quilts, vessels, bowls and jars.

Washington
National Gallery of Art, tel: (202) 842-6884, open daily. To Feb. 11: "Johannes Vermeer." 21 of the 35 works known to exist today. The Dutch painter has been admired throughout the centuries for the intimacy of his paintings, his depiction of light and shadow and his illusionism. The exhibition will travel to The Hague in the spring.

THE NETHERLANDS

Rotterdam
Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, tel: (10) 441-8400, closed Mondays. To Feb. 4: "Treasures of the Czar." From the Kremlin, 100 objects provide a picture of court culture in the time of Peter the Great. They include gifts presented by foreign envoys, garments worn by the czar and jewelry.

PORTUGAL

Lisbon
Centro de Exposições do Centro Cultural de Belém, tel: (1) 301-9906, open daily. To Jan. 7: "Macao Visto por George Chinnery." Drawings and etchings documenting life in

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赵小芳	女	25	湖南	歌手	音乐路567号	8901	
孙志远	男	58	安徽	农民	农村路123号	4567	
郑晓琳	女	32	江西	律师	法律路789号	1011	
黄建军	男	48	福建	工程师	技术路234号	5678	
林小梅	女	22	广西	学生	学府路567号	8901	
罗国强	男	55	山西	工人	工业路123号	4567	
周丽娟	女	30	陕西	教师	教育路789号	1011	
吴大伟	男	40	甘肃	医生	医院路234号	5678	
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郑晓琳	女	35	内蒙古	护士	医院路789号	1011	
黄建军	男	45	新疆	记者	报社路234号	5678	
林小梅	女	25	西藏	学生	学府路567号	8901	
罗国强	男	58	海南	工人	工业路123号	4567	
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郑晓琳	女	35	江西	护士	医院路789号	1011	
黄建军	男	45	福建	记者	报社路234号	5678	
林小梅	女	25	广西	学生	学府路567号	8901	
罗国强	男	58	山西	工人	工业路123号	4567	
周丽娟	女	32	陕西	教师	教育路789号	1011	
吴大伟	男	42	甘肃	医生	医院路234号	5678	
赵小芳	女	28	宁夏	学生	学府路567号	8901	
孙志远	男	50	青海	工人	工业路123号	4567	
郑晓琳	女	35	内蒙古	护士	医院路789号	1011	
黄建军	男	45	新疆	记者	报社路234号	5678	
林小梅	女	25	西藏	学生	学府路567号	8901	
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周丽娟	女	32	重庆	教师	教育路789号	1011	
吴大伟	男	42	四川	医生	医院路234号	5678	
赵小芳	女	28	湖南	学生	学府路567号	8901	
孙志远	男	50	湖北	工人	工业路123号	4567	
郑晓琳	女	35	江西	护士	医院路789号	1011	
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赵小芳	女	28	湖南	学生	学府路567号	8901	

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The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the County of Los Angeles, California, for the year 1900:

Office	Name
County Clerk	John W. Smith
County Treasurer	James H. Brown
County Assessor	William C. Jones
County Engineer	Robert L. Davis
County Surveyor	Charles E. Wilson
County Jailor	Thomas A. Miller
County Coroner	George F. Taylor
County Sheriff	John D. White
County Auditor	Edward G. Black
County Recorder	Franklin M. Green
County Controller	Harold K. Adams
County Treasurer	William B. Baker
County Assessor	John C. Clark
County Engineer	Robert E. Evans
County Surveyor	Charles F. Fisher
County Jailor	Thomas G. Hall
County Coroner	George H. Hill
County Sheriff	John I. Jones
County Auditor	Edward J. King
County Recorder	Franklin L. Knight
County Controller	Harold M. Lamb
County Treasurer	William N. Lee
County Assessor	John O. Miller
County Engineer	Robert P. Moore
County Surveyor	Charles Q. Parker
County Jailor	Thomas R. Reed
County Coroner	George S. Shaw
County Sheriff	John T. Smith
County Auditor	Edward U. Taylor
County Recorder	Franklin V. White
County Controller	Harold W. Young
County Treasurer	William X. Adams
County Assessor	John Y. Baker
County Engineer	Robert Z. Clark
County Surveyor	Charles A. Evans
County Jailor	Thomas B. Fisher
County Coroner	George C. Hall
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LIBRARY INDEX

SEARCHING AHEAD

SEARCH MISTAKE

CURRENT

Gates Gets Serious About the Internet

Microsoft Moves to Catch Up On Network's Popularity

REDMOND, Washington—Microsoft Corp. has decided to join some of its top competitors in exploiting the Internet instead of trying to beat them, the world software leader revealed Thursday.

In outlining its Internet strategy, Microsoft said it would collaborate with competitor Oracle Corp. on Internet development and publishing technologies, seeking to offer "richer and more active" content on the World Wide Web portion of the international communications network.

In addition, Microsoft said it would license the Java programming language from Sun Microsystems Inc., and it announced a deal to provide its Internet browser to CompuServe Inc., with which it competes in on-line services.

The endorsement of Sun's Java, for designing software that can be easily distributed on electronic networks, marked a rare embrace by Microsoft of a product it had not developed or bought.

Microsoft signed a letter of intent with Sun, the company said. "What it shows is a willingness on our part to participate in the Internet and take what is out there," said Bill Miller, the director of marketing for the Microsoft Network, the company's on-line service.

Microsoft also said it was expanding an agreement with Spyglass Inc., whose technology is the basis for Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser.

While its Internet strategies had been leaked for several weeks, Microsoft had kept people guessing about whether it would endorse Java.

Because the program works on any kind of computer, it poses a threat to Microsoft's dominance of the personal computer software business.

The announcements sent shares of Internet-related companies lower, but they did not help Microsoft, as investors apparently bet that increasing competition would cut into profitability.

Microsoft's shares have been under pressure in recent weeks because the company appeared to have been caught off guard by the popularity of the Internet.

The company's stock was down 12.5 cents, at \$90.50, while shares in Netscape Communications Corp., which makes a popular program for browsing the World Wide Web, were down \$28.75, to \$132.50.

Oracle and Sun bucked the trend, but Spyglass fell \$14.75, to \$95.25.

The cooperation with Oracle and Sun is notable because Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates, has been engaged in a war of words with the leaders of those companies over the future of computing.

While Mr. Gates is betting that people will want increasingly powerful computers, Oracle and Sun have predicted that much of the processing power will migrate to central servers that provide video-based information and can be reached via electronic appliances that could cost as little as \$500.

Last month, the chairman of International Business Machines Corp. and Novell Inc. supported that view.

Despite his differing view on hardware, however, Mr. Gates has always supported the idea that global computer networks would be increasingly important.

(Bloomberg, AP, AFX, Reuters)

EU Hits Grain Exporters

Steep New Tax Aims to Protect Supplies

PARIS — The European Union slapped taxes on wheat exports for the first time in 21 years Thursday to make it harder for farmers to cash in on soaring world prices by selling grain abroad that is badly needed in the 15-member EU, farm officials said.

"The obligatory tax would make sure there are adequate supplies," said Gerry Kiely, the European Commission's agriculture spokesman. "Too much grain has been flowing out of the EU."

Officials at the EU said exporters now had a choice of paying a flat export tax of 25 European Currency Units (\$32.50) a metric ton — which no one would pay, as it would make European wheat uncompetitive on the world market — or taking their chances with the EU pricing mechanism instituted six weeks ago.

Moreover, news that Russia had apparently returned as a big buyer in a market where drought has drastically cut world grain stocks helped fuel a rally in grain prices.

The December wheat-futures contract in the Chicago Board of Trade futures pit soared 13 cents, to \$5.22 a bushel, on Thursday, a 15-year high. That compared with its former peaks of \$5.44 in 1980 and the all-time high of \$6.45 in February 1974.

The new tax represented a stark contrast to the time the EU, the second-biggest grain exporter after North America, subsidized exports from its now-vanished huge surpluses.

After drought in Australia and North Africa, world stocks are now at their lowest point since the 1970s. EU public wheat stocks, for example, are down to 1.2 million tons from a peak of 13 million tons in 1993.

A private Russian grain-trading firm has just bought 1.5 million tons of grain from the United States, Austria and Hungary, a Russian agricultural official said Thursday. In the Soviet era, such purchases sent shock waves through grain markets.

The firm, Roskhebroprod, declined to give details of the purchase, but such an amount would probably be worth around \$300 million, analysts said.

The official, Vladimir Kotov, reiterated statements by other officials that despite a poor Russian harvest, Moscow would not finance grain imports this year.

Analysts said the needs of Russia and China could determine how much the world will have to pay for its food next year.

"The key to prices will be any additional demand from China and the former Soviet Union," said Alan Willis, a manager based in Argentina for the American commodities concern, Cargill Inc.

John Miller, head wheat merchant at Continental Grain Co. in Chicago, said that the Russians "have been away from the U.S. and the Western markets for the past three years and still have hurdles." But, he added, "they are a sleeping giant."

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Surplus Fell 51.8% In October, Japan Says

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — Japan posted the biggest decline in its monthly current-account surplus in five years Thursday as auto exports fell, imports rose and more of its people took advantage of a strong yen to travel abroad.

October's trade surplus shrank 51.8 percent from a year earlier, to \$4.3 billion, the Ministry of Finance said, well below the \$5.6 billion surplus economists had predicted.

It was the second decline in a row and the sixth in the eight months. While economists said the numbers showed Japan's trade gap was on a shrinking trend, they added that October's decline had been exaggerated.

"I'd be surprised if this pace of trade adjustment continues, for the simple reason that the domestic economy is weak," which will stifle demand for imports, said Russell Jones of Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

The dollar slipped against the yen shortly after the figures were released, even though a narrower deficit implies that Japanese exporters have fewer dollars to sell for yen and so should strengthen the U.S. currency.

"In theory, this is positive for the dollar and negative for the yen," Mr. Jones said. "I'm sometimes amazed at the financial markets' inability to respond to Japanese economic statistics."

The current account is the broadest measure of trade because it includes merchandise as well as services such as travel and investment income and monetary transfers such as economic assistance and donations.

October's decline was the largest since November 1990, when the trade gap contracted 59 percent, the ministry said.

The merchandise trade surplus shrank 32.7 percent, to \$7.6 billion.

Landis & Gyr's board recommended that shareholders accept the offer.

"This takeover offer is part of the strategy already outlined this spring of focusing Elektrowatt's business on electric power as well as security systems and building control," said Oskar K. Ronner, Elektrowatt's chief executive.

Elektrowatt, which is 44 percent controlled by the financial services company CS Holding, said the bid would go through only if 70 percent of Landis & Gyr shares were tendered.

The company said it had already bought a 35 percent stake in Landis & Gyr from Unotec Holding, a company controlled

Elektrowatt Bids for a Rival

Commented by Our Staff From Dispatches

ZURICH — Elektrowatt AG, a Swiss utilities company, said Thursday it would buy the electrical technology company Landis & Gyr AG for 1.8 billion Swiss francs (\$1.54 billion) as it seeks to focus on its building-controls business.

Elektrowatt is offering 950 Swiss francs for each Landis & Gyr share, a 31 percent premium to Landis & Gyr's closing price Wednesday of 727.

The shares rose in morning trading Thursday to 730, while Elektrowatt stock dropped 5 francs, to 353. Both stocks were suspended in the afternoon.

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"This takeover offer is part of the strategy already outlined this spring of focusing Elektrowatt's business on electric power as well as security systems and building control," said Oskar K. Ronner, Elektrowatt's chief executive.

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The company said it had already bought a 35 percent stake in Landis & Gyr from Unotec Holding, a company controlled

by the Swiss investor Stephan Schmidheiny.

John Willis, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, said Elektrowatt was "moving from being a utility to a technology-based company."

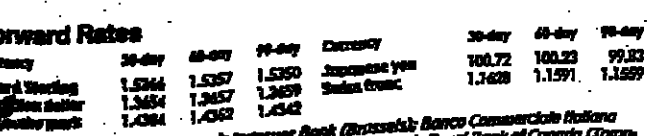
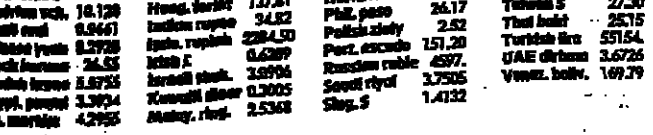
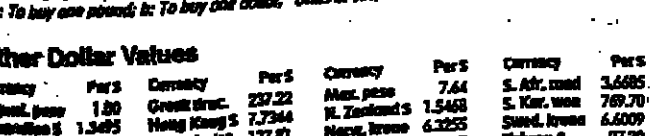
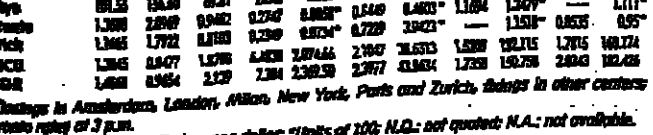
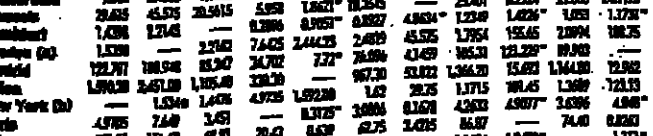
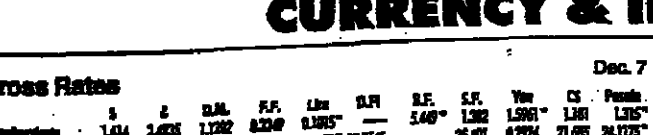
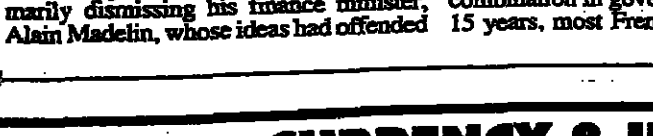
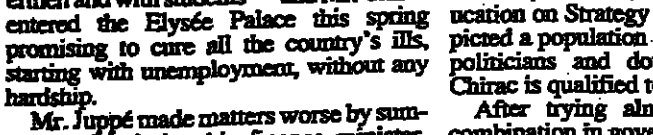
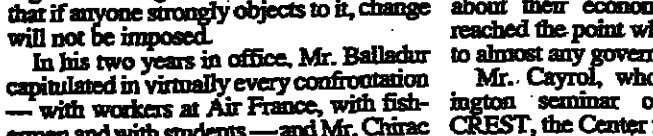
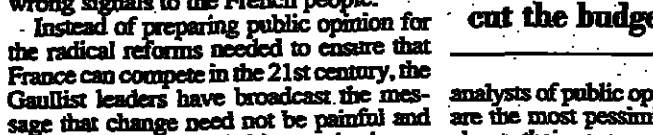
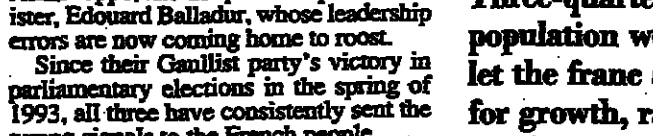
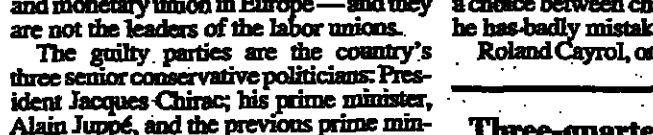
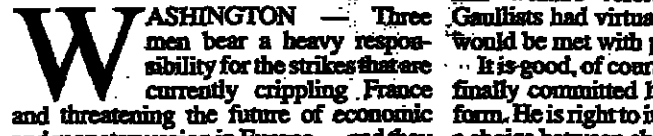
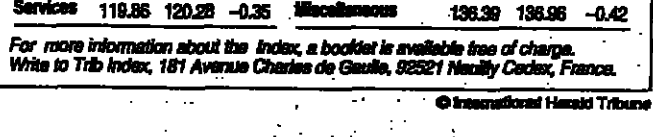
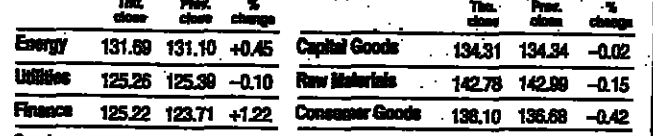
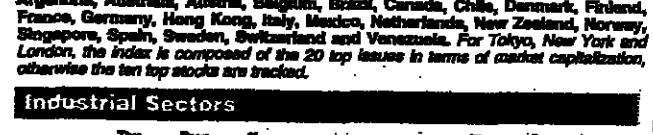
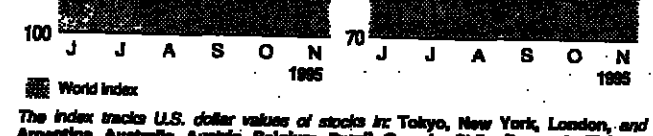
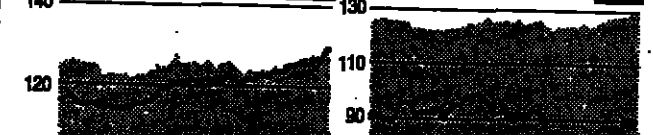
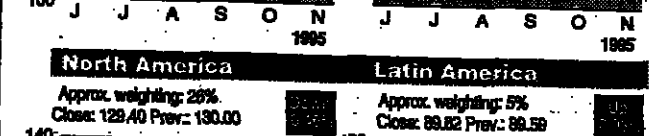
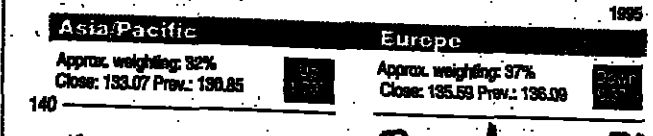
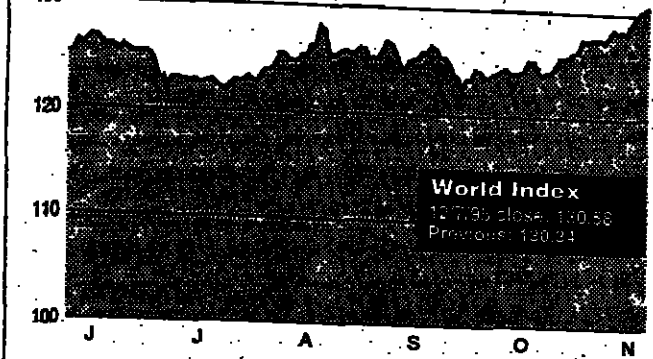
Mr. Willis said if the deal were completed, Elektrowatt would have annual sales in building-control systems of about 2.1 billion francs, roughly equal to those of the industry leader, Honeywell Inc. of the United States.

Elektrowatt is to pay for the purchase with credit, cash and the proceeds from as much as 1 billion francs in investments.

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

THE TRIB INDEX: 130.58

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News, Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.



Littlewoods Says It's Not for Sale

Decision Rebuffs 2 Bids

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — Littlewoods Organisation PLC, a retailer, catalogue company and football-pools operator, said Thursday its shareholders had voted against putting Britain's largest closely held corporation up for sale.

Allied Irish Adds Govett Group to Investment Fold

AFK News
LONDON — Allied Irish Banks PLC said Thursday it would acquire John Govett Group from Govett & Co. for £101 million (\$152 million). It said the agreement was conditional on winning the support of Govett & Co.'s shareholders and on regulatory approvals.

When the transaction is completed, Govett & Co. will change its name to London Pacific Group Ltd. John Govett Group will continue to trade under the Govett name.

Allied Irish will acquire Govett Group through a new company, John Govett Holdings Ltd., in which Allied Irish will own a 75 percent stake on a fully diluted basis.

The management team will have a 20 percent stake, and Govett Oriental Investment Trust PLC will hold the remaining 5 percent.

Allied Irish said it planned to integrate Govett Group into its investment services business to create a single asset-management operation.

Govett Group manages £3 billion of assets for institutional and retail clients and has a staff of 130.

The family-owned concern to release financial information to any bidder.

"Shareholders have no immediate intention that the company should be sold," Littlewoods' chairman, Leonard van Geest, said.

"The board now expects other potential offers to recognize the wishes of shareholders and not prolong the period of uncertainty."

The vote dealt a rebuff to two publicly disclosed bids. This week, N. Brown Group PLC and Iceland Group PLC joined forces in a £1.1 billion (\$1.68 billion) offer for the company.

Littlewoods is owned by 32 descendants of Sir John Moores, who founded the company in 1923 as a football-pools business. Littlewoods expanded into catalogue shopping in 1932 and into city-center retail shops in 1937.

Mr. Moores died two years ago, leaving his children and grandchildren the Littlewoods Stores Group, Littlewoods Pools and the Liverpool Football Club.

Since his death, boardroom battles, competition from Britain's national lottery and a recession have hit earnings, and the company has warned that this year's profit would be "some way below" last year's.

The Moores brothers' fortune has fallen to about £900 million from 1.7 billion in 1994, according to some estimates.

Mr. Moores' sons, John and Peter, both in their 60s, and 30 other family members are shareholders in the company that made football pools a big business in Britain and Littlewoods a household name.

But the family, meeting at the company's headquarters in Liverpool, decided not to open their books to potential buyers and not to countenance bids for parts or all of the company.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Hungary Unloads Utilities

By Alan Krauss
Special to the Herald Tribune

BUDAPEST — Hungary put its gas distribution network into corporate hands Thursday, becoming the first of the former Communist countries to get completely out of a major utility sector, and sold parts of its electricity industry.

Gyorgy Valyi, managing director of Hungary's State Privatization & Holding Co., said Gaz de France had bought the largest share of the assets on offer. It paid \$92 million for Degaz, an operation that serves 364,000 customers in southwestern Hungary and sells about 1.1 billion cubic meters of gas a year.

The French company also offered \$77 million for Egaz, which delivers 503 million cubic meters of gas annually to 140,000 customers in northeastern Hungary.

Meanwhile, Mr. Valyi said, a German consortium of Ruhrgas AG and VEW AG planned to pay \$52 million for just over 50 percent of Degaz, which sells 524 million cubic meters of gas a year to 174,000 customers in southwestern Hungary.

Elizabeth McCrory, an analyst with Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris, said Hungary had gone beyond other former Communist countries by selling off what had been a regulated monopoly utility sector. In recent years, only Britain has

conducted a comparable sale.

"This looks a lot like the U.K. in 1986, and that's pretty radical in Europe," Ms. McCrory said.

But she added that Hungary was only doing what it had found it necessary to do.

"The Hungarian government has a budget deficit," she said. "It had to raise \$2 billion to meet requirements,

'The prices reflect the real business values of these companies.'

and about the only thing they had left to sell was the energy sector." She was referring to International Monetary Fund requirements.

"It worked because there were buyers," she said. "They've done well."

In addition, the Hungarian privatization agency will sell stakes of 46 percent to 49 percent in six regional electricity distribution companies to Electricite de France, Bayernwerk and two other German utility companies, RWE AG and Icar Amperwerke AG.

"The prices reflect the real business values of these companies," Mr. Valyi said. "They're good prices — what we expected. I think it's the most successful tender ever in Hungary."

Mr. Valyi said an agreement with another German consortium, Bayernwerk/EVN, on the sale of a majority stake in the last remaining regional gas distributor, Kogaz in the southwest, could be reached by Monday.

The consortium will acquire Kogaz for about \$67 million unless it gets a surprise offer.

A majority of the eastern gas distributor Tigaz was sold a week ago to Italgas, a unit of Ente Nazionale di Idrocarburi, for \$172 million, and the Budapest municipal gas company will go to Ruhrgas for about \$130 million.

Privatization officials also announced that a group of European utilities would buy stakes valued at \$1.3 billion in six of Hungary's regional electricity distributors and two power plants.

Bids were rejected for five other power plants, as well as for the 24 percent of the central power company, known as MVM Rt., that was on offer.

A group led by RWE will buy minority stakes in three electric companies, including the Budapest utility, and an 800-megawatt coal-fired generating plant in Mair, northeast of Budapest.

Powerfin SA, a unit of Belgium's Tractebel, bought a minority share in a second power plant.

The privatization agency refused to disclose prices on the individual deals. Contracts are to be signed Friday.

GEC Profit Rises as Orders Soar

Continued by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — General Electric Co. of Britain said Thursday its first-half pretax profit rose 6.3 percent and its order book stood at a record high.

The defense contractor and electronics maker said it earned £402 million (\$619.4 million) before taxes through September. It credited the gain to strong telecommunications equipment exports and improved profit at its office equipment unit.

The news helped push General Electric shares up 12 pence to close at 314.

"They're very much on track," said Keith Sykes of Credit Lyonnais. "Orders in defense are coming in surprisingly well considering the climate."

General Electric said orders outstanding rose 15 percent, to £13.7 billion, while sales grew 1 percent, to £4.89 billion.

The company forecast that its company's most troublesome segments, power systems and defense electronics, would show improved profit over the rest of the year.

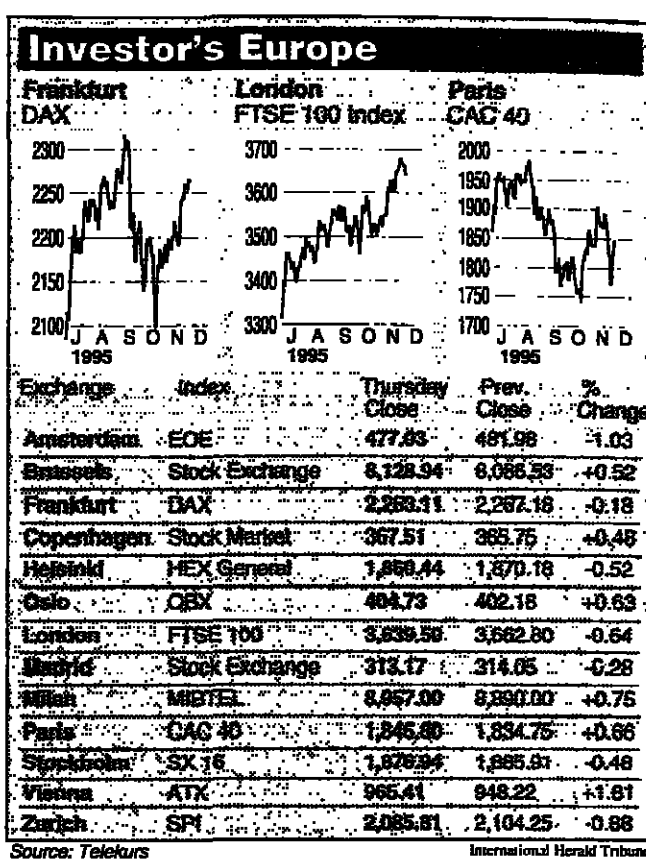
General Electric — which is unrelated to General Electric Co. of the United States — also said it had unexpectedly high development costs on some defense electronics contracts and slower sales in its power equipment business, GEC Alsthom Ltd.

A 51 percent increase in exports of telecommunications equipment raised profit at the GPT Ltd. unit 15 percent, to £62 million. Sales rose 7 percent, to £464 million. (AP, Bloomberg)

■ **Inquiry at Alcatel**

Alcatel CIT, the telecommunications equipment unit of Alcatel Alsthom, said four of its executives had been placed under formal investigation as part of a continuing investigation of alleged overbilling. Reuters reported from Paris.

A spokesman said the chairman and chief executive, Gerard Doga, a board member, Claude Teger, and two unidentified executives had been told they were being investigated. The inquiry already has led to the brief detention of Alcatel CIT's former chairman, Pierre Guichet, and the departure of Pierre Suard as Alcatel Alsthom's chairman.



Very briefly:

- Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi said the Italian government earned 6.3 trillion lire (\$3.95 billion) from the sale of 15 percent of the energy company.
- Italy's trade surplus widened 19 percent, to 31.95 trillion lire, in the first nine months of the year.
- Greenalls Group PLC's pretax profit rose 18 percent in its latest year, to £100.5 million (\$154.8 million), as the independent pub operator benefited from a renegotiation of beer contracts; sales rose 6 percent, to £765.9 million.
- Compass Group PLC is holding talks to sell its health-care unit; it declined to disclose its asking price but said estimates of £175 million to £200 million were not "out of the ballpark."
- Trygg-Hansa AB, a Swedish insurance company, plans to restructure by combining insurance, saving and financing operations into one group.
- Bremer Vulkan AG's former chief executive, Friedrich Hennemann, is under investigation for allegedly misleading shareholders about the financial condition of the unprofitable German shipbuilder.
- The European Union's unemployment rate stood at 10.6 percent in October, unchanged from September and down from 11 percent a year earlier.
- Merck KGaA's net profit rose 48 percent, to 273 million Deutsche marks (\$189 million) in the first nine months of the year, as sales rose to 4.7 billion DM from 4.2 billion DM. The company expects net profit for the year to be "sharply higher" than the 518 million DM it earned last year.
- Norway's gross domestic product excluding offshore oil and gas revenue rose 1.1 percent in the third quarter from the second quarter and 2.7 percent year-on-year.
- ZPS Zlin AS of the Czech Republic launched a 1 billion koruna (\$37.6 million) joint venture with Okuma Corp. of Japan to produce machine-tool units for the U.S. market.

AFP, AP, Bloomberg

AMEX

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close					Friday's 4 p.m. Close					Saturday's 4 p.m. Close					Sunday's 4 p.m. Close				
The top 30 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange					The top 30 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange					The top 30 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange					The top 30 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange				
The Associated Press					The Associated Press					The Associated Press					The Associated Press				
Symbol	High	Low	Last	Change	Symbol	High	Low	Last	Change	Symbol	High	Low	Last	Change	Symbol	High	Low	Last	Change
IBM	125.00	124.00	124.00	+0.25	IBM	125.00	124.00	124.00	+0.25	IBM	125.00	124.00	124.00	+0.25	IBM	125.00	124.00	124.00	+0.25
Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.00	+0.25	Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.00	+0.25	Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.00	+0.25	Microsoft	55.00	54.00	54.00	+0.25
Apple	45.00	44.00	44.00	+0.25	Apple	45.00	44.00	44.00	+0.25	Apple	45.00	44.00	44.00	+0.25	Apple	45.00	44.00	44.00	+0.25
Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.00	+0.25	Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.00	+0.25	Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.00	+0.25	Oracle	35.00	34.00	34.00	+0.25
Amazon	25.00	24.00	24.00	+0.25	Amazon	25.00	24.00	24.00	+0.25	Amazon	25.00	24.00	24.00	+0.25	Amazon	25.00	24.00	24.00	+0.25
Google	15.00	14.00	14.00	+0.25	Google	15.00	14.00	14.00	+0.25	Google	15.00	14.00	14.00	+0.25	Google	15.00	14.00	14.00	+0.25
Yahoo	10.00	9.00	9.00	+0.25	Yahoo	10.00	9.00	9.00	+0.25	Yahoo	10.00	9.00	9.00	+0.25	Yahoo	10.00	9.00	9.00	+0.25
Alibaba	5.00	4.00	4.00	+0.25	Alibaba	5.00	4.00	4.00	+0.25	Alibaba	5.00	4.00	4.00	+0.25	Alibaba	5.00	4.00	4.00	+0.25
Facebook	3.00	2.00	2.00	+0.25	Facebook	3.00	2.00	2.00	+0.25	Facebook	3.00	2.00	2.00	+0.25	Facebook	3.00	2.00	2.00	+0.25
Twitter	2.00	1.00	1.00	+0.25	Twitter	2.00	1.00	1.00	+0.25	Twitter	2.00	1.00	1.00	+0.25	Twitter	2.00	1.00	1.00	+0.25
LinkedIn	1.00	0.50	0.50	+0.25	LinkedIn	1.00	0.50	0.50	+0.25	LinkedIn	1.00	0.50	0.50	+0.25	LinkedIn	1.00	0.50	0.50	+0.25
Slack	0.50	0.25	0.25	+0.25	Slack	0.50	0.25	0.25	+0.25	Slack	0.50	0.25	0.25	+0.25	Slack	0.50	0.25	0.25	+0.25
Zoom	0.25	0.10	0.10	+0.25	Zoom	0.25	0.10	0.10	+0.25	Zoom	0.25	0.10	0.10	+0.25	Zoom	0.25	0.10	0.10	+0.25
Dropbox	0.10	0.05	0.05	+0.25	Dropbox	0.10	0.05	0.05	+0.25	Dropbox	0.10	0.05	0.05	+0.25	Dropbox	0.10	0.05	0.05	+0.25
Box	0.05	0.02	0.02	+0.25	Box	0.05	0.02	0.02	+0.25	Box	0.05	0.02	0.02	+0.25	Box	0.05	0.02	0.02	+0.25
OneDrive	0.02	0.01	0.01	+0.25	OneDrive	0.02	0.01	0.01	+0.25	OneDrive	0.02	0.01	0.01	+0.25	OneDrive	0.02	0.01	0.01	+0.25
SharePoint	0.01	0.00	0.00	+0.25	SharePoint	0.01	0.00	0.00	+0.25	SharePoint	0.01	0.00	0.00	+0.25	SharePoint	0.01	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Teams	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Teams	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Teams	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Teams	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Outlook	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Outlook	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Outlook	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Outlook	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Word	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Word	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Word	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Word	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Excel	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Excel	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Excel	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Excel	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
PowerPoint	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PowerPoint	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PowerPoint	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PowerPoint	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Access	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Access	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Access	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Access	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Visual Basic	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Visual Basic	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Visual Basic	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Visual Basic	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
VBScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	VBScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	VBScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	VBScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
ASP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	ASP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	ASP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	ASP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
PHP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PHP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PHP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	PHP	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Perl	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Perl	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Perl	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Perl	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Python	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Python	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Python	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Python	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Java	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Java	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Java	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Java	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
C++	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C++	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C++	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C++	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
C#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	C#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
F#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	F#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	F#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	F#	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Go	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Go	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Go	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Go	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Rust	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Rust	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Rust	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Rust	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Kotlin	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Kotlin	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Kotlin	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Kotlin	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Scala	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Scala	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Scala	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Scala	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Swift	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Swift	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Swift	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Swift	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
Objective-C	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Objective-C	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Objective-C	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	Objective-C	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
JavaScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	JavaScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	JavaScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	JavaScript	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery Mobile	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Mobile	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Mobile	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Mobile	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery Validation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Validation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Validation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Validation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery Form	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Form	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Form	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery Form	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Datepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Datepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Datepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Datepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Slider	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Slider	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Slider	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Slider	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Resizable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Resizable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Resizable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Resizable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Dialog	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Dialog	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Dialog	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Dialog	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Tabs	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Tabs	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Tabs	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Tabs	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Accordion	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Accordion	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Accordion	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Accordion	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Progressbar	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Progressbar	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Progressbar	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Progressbar	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Timepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Timepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Timepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Timepicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Colorpicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Colorpicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Colorpicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Colorpicker	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Image	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Image	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Image	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Image	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Audio	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Audio	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Audio	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Audio	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Animation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Animation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Animation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Animation	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Effects	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Effects	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Effects	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Effects	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Transitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Transitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Transitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Transitions	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Draggable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25
jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00	0.00	+0.25	jQuery UI Sortable	0.00	0.00</		

NYSE

Thursday's 4 p.m. Close
(Continued)

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100
12.50	12.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100	125.00	120.00	IBM	3.00	4.5	15.0	100

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Belgium	B. Fr.	14,000	41	7,700
Denmark	D. Kr.	3,400	33	1,900
Finland	F. M.	2,400	40	1,300
France	F. F.	1,950	40	1,070
Germany	D. M.	700	38	385
Greece	Dr.	75,000	41	41,000
Great Britain	£	210	22	115
Ireland	£ Ir.	230	37	125
Italy	Lire	470,000	54	260,000
Luxembourg	L. Fr.	14,000	36	7,700
Netherlands	Fl.	770	40	420
Norway	N. Kr.	3,500	40	1,900
Portugal	Esc.	47,000	42	26,000
Spain	Ptas.	48,000	41	26,500
hand delivery Madrid	Ptas.	55,000	33	29,500
Sweden (Göteborg)	S. Kr.	3,100	43	1,900
hand delivery	S. Kr.	3,500	36	2,000
Switzerland	S. Fr.	610	48	335
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The Associated Press.

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Alcoa	0.61	1.1	11.1	100	47.5	47.0	47.5	0.5
Allegiant	0.00	0.0	0.0	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
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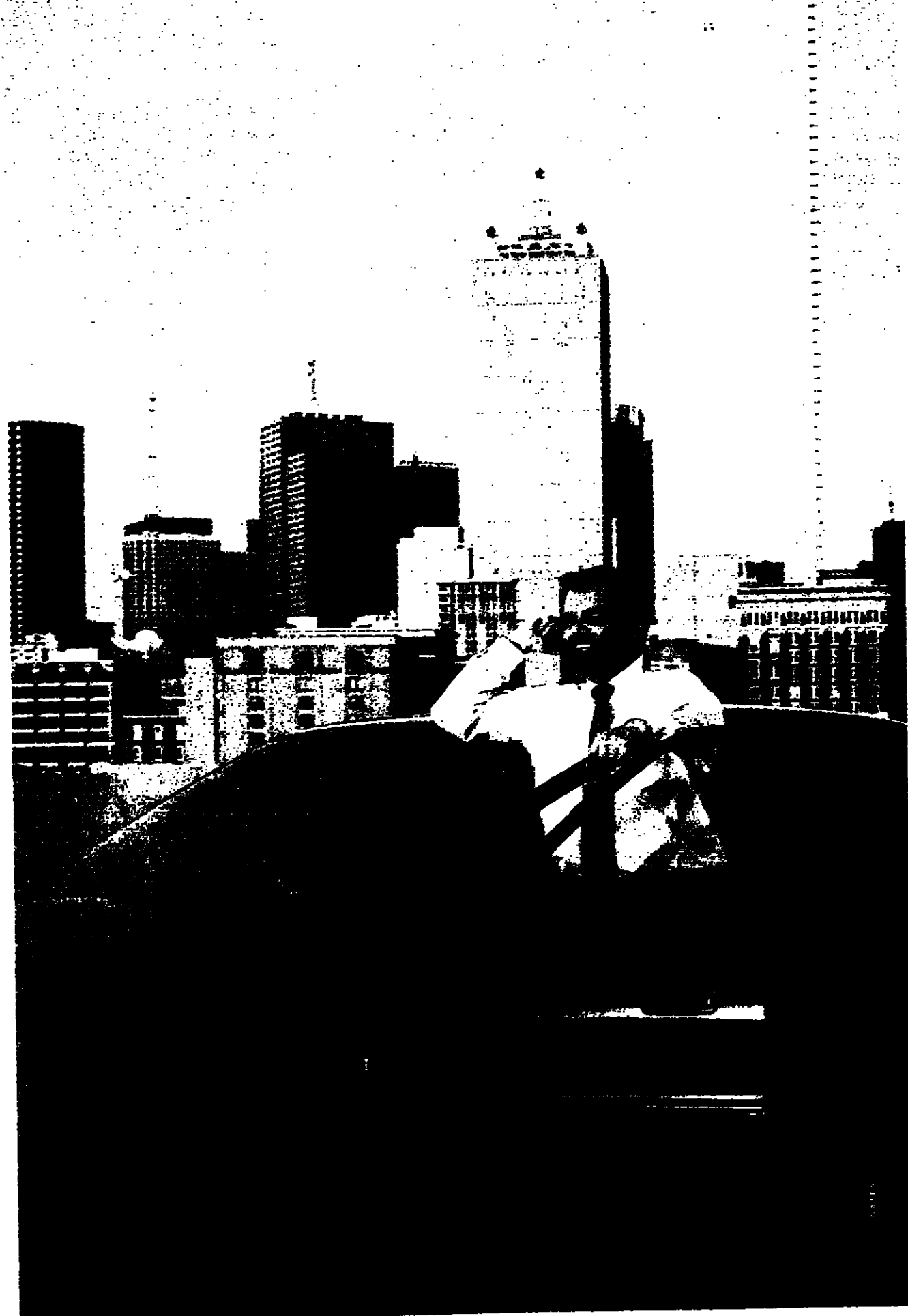
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SPORTS

The Shark Swims Home

Will NCAA Follow Its Foe to Fresno?

By J.A. Adande
Washington Post Service

FRESNO, California—Read the biographies of the older players in the Fresno State basketball media guide and you'll find a variety of explanations for why they chose to come here, from "I want a college education and I want to win basketball games" to "the people are supportive and friendly."

But for the newcomers the "I chose to attend Fresno State because..." lines all focus on a single reason. It's the same reason the season-ticket base has gone from 7,600 to 9,350. It's the same reason a five-week Fresno State athletics fund-raising drive in May went more than a \$1 million over its goal of \$4.3 million.

It's Jerry Tarkanian. I chose to attend Fresno State because...

"My mom and family and my favorite coach of all, Jerry Tarkanian" — junior college transfer Kendrick Brooks.

"To get away from home and to play for Coach Tarkanian" — freshman Michael Contreras.

"Coach Tark" — junior college transfer James Gray.

"Coach Tark" — transfer Chris Heeren.

"Jerry Tarkanian" — freshman Terrence Roberson.

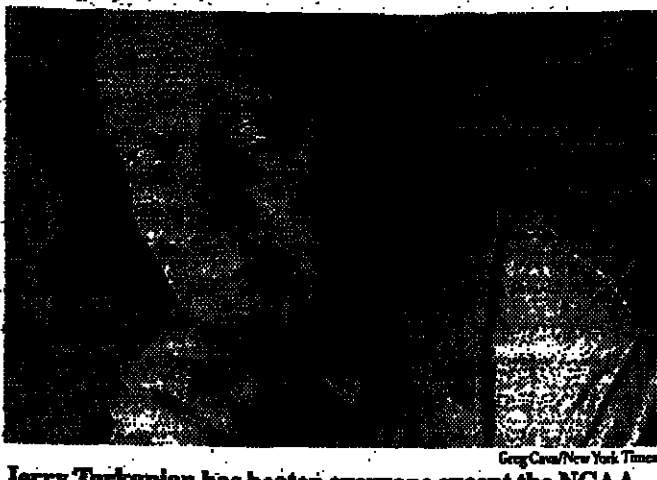
Jerry Tarkanian, a graduate of Fresno State, is the winningest major college basketball coach in history, and one of the most notorious. Before the season began, Tarkanian was asked what had changed in the 22 months since he left his last college job, at Nevada-Las Vegas, in a swirl of controversy. "The most difficult thing for us has been the Clearinghouse," Tarkanian said.

During all of his battles with the NCAA at his previous coaching stops, Tarkanian never encountered anything like the Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse, which went into effect last year. Six players had to be held out of Fresno State's first exhibition game while questions about their course work were resolved.

He has lost freshman Larry Abney for this season after the Clearinghouse wouldn't accept a math class as one of the required core courses. Tarkanian, a prize recruit, Roberson, who left the season after failing just short of the required score in a re-take of the college entry test.

Tarkanian and the NCAA have maintained a relationship as long-lasting and antagonistic as Captain Hook and the crocodile.

His 19-season career at the University of Las Vegas included a 14-year legal battle with the NCAA over the NCAA's desire to have the university suspend him for two years. Tarkanian sued. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually decided in favor of the NCAA, which then decided not to suspend Tarkanian. "Next



Jerry Tarkanian has beaten everyone except the NCAA.

to the president, they might be the most powerful organization out there," Tarkanian said of the body he calls the "NC-two-A."

His battles never stopped him from winning. Tarkanian went 625-122 in his 19 seasons at UNLV and five seasons at Long Beach State, a winning percentage of .837. He enjoyed his greatest moment when his Runnin' Rebels, led by Larry Johnson and Stacey Augmon, blasted Duke, 103-73, to win the 1990 NCAA championship. The next season, Duke upset an undefeated UNLV team in the semifinals.

Later in 1991, the university's president, Robert Maxson, managed to force Tarkanian's resignation.

Tarkanian left with NCAA sanctions looming, many stemming from his recruitment of Lloyd Daniels, who never played at UNLV. The program crumbled. In November 1993, the school was hit with two years of probation stemming from 26 incidents of what the NCAA deemed improper inducements and benefits to recruits and a lack of institutional control. It was not the legacy he intended to leave.

"I think the biggest thing to him was he left UNLV on a sour note," said his son, Danny Tarkanian, who was working as a lawyer in Las Vegas but has joined his father as an assistant coach. "I think that really bothered him. He would like to leave as his own terms, feeling good about what he did."

Which is part of the reason he's here now, in a nondescript office near the agricultural fields of Fresno State, is a former assistant coach of the San Francisco Giants, who let him sign a 9-11 record early in the 1993-94 season. Tarkanian spoke to corporations, hosted a radio show, did some television commentary, judged bikini contests and even appeared in a couple of movies ("Honeyman in Vegas" and "Blue Chips"). Then his schedule to brought him to Fresno for a speaking engagement a few

days after Gary Colson resigned as basketball coach. "The reception I got was so overwhelming that I got all excited," said Tarkanian, whose team is off to a 3-2 start. "They treated me like I was Michael Jordan when I came up here."

He has always been popular here, as a player and among the large and influential Armenian community, which numbers close to 40,000.

Hiring Tarkanian meant hiring his baggage. John D. Welty, the Fresno State president, knew that. "As we were considering hiring Coach Tarkanian, we reviewed a number of issues," Welty said. "We were, after completing that review, and talking with him, comfortable with his commitment to coming to Fresno State and building a program that was not only successful but run with integrity and a commitment to both the university and the NCAA."

Welty also knew that the funds for a \$40 million arena the university planned could be found more easily once Tarkanian was hired on April 5.

He's also got top high school players considering Fresno State. Tarkanian landed Roberson, a 6-foot-7 All-American forward from Saginaw, Michigan.

"Anywhere he would have been, I would have been there," Roberson said. "I always wanted to play for him. I like the style of play that he prefers. I like the running and the pressing. I just like everything."

After Tarkanian saw that Heeren had decided to leave Boston College and had listed UNLV among his choices, Tarkanian called him up to remind him that "Hey, I was UNLV." In May, Heeren announced he was transferring to Fresno State.

"I don't use any particular pitch," Tarkanian said. "We signed every kid who visited last year. It was a miracle."

"In Vegas, our players would take the kids out and I would just talk to them in the office. But here I got involved and did it all, because we had to sell Fresno. This was a new situation. We had to sell it all."

They came. Now will the NCAA follow?

"I don't know if they will or not," Tarkanian said. "They have everywhere else."

Surprise: Rodman Upstages Jordan

The Associated Press

Dennis Rodman came back for the Chicago Bulls and practically stole the show from Michael Jordan. Derrick Coleman came back and stopped a slide for the Philadelphia 76ers.

Rodman, who missed the previous 12 games with a calf injury, was a surprise starter Wednesday night for the Bulls.

NBA ROUNDPUP

against the New York Knicks and grabbed 20 rebounds in 38 minutes as Chicago rallied for a 101-94 victory at home.

"Teams have to pay him respect," said Jordan, who scored 18 of his 22 points in the second half. "He gets you so many offensive rebounds that sooner or later, you're going to make some shots."

Rodman scored only six points, but his basket on a give-and-go pass from Jordan cut the Knicks' lead to 73-72 after three quarters.

Jordan started poorly, missing 13 of 15 shots before finding the range just in time to give the Bulls their fourth consecutive victory.

Scottie Pippen also scored 22 points for Chicago, which has the National Basketball Association's best record (14-2) and is 7-0 at home.

John Starks scored 25 points and Patrick Ewing 22 for the Knicks, who won their first three games during a tough stretch of four games in five nights.

Tyrese 108, Mavericks 87 Coleman, who hadn't played this season because of an irregular heartbeat and was traded from New Jersey to Philadelphia on Nov. 30, helped his new team halt an 11-game losing streak in his 76er debut. He had 17 points and 11 rebounds in 31 minutes as Philadelphia routed visiting Dallas, 108-87.

Vernon Maxwell scored 25 points and Jerry Stackhouse had 21 points and 10 rebounds in Philadelphia's victory.

Maxwell was successful with six of the nine three-point shots he tried. Stackhouse had eight assists for the Sixers.

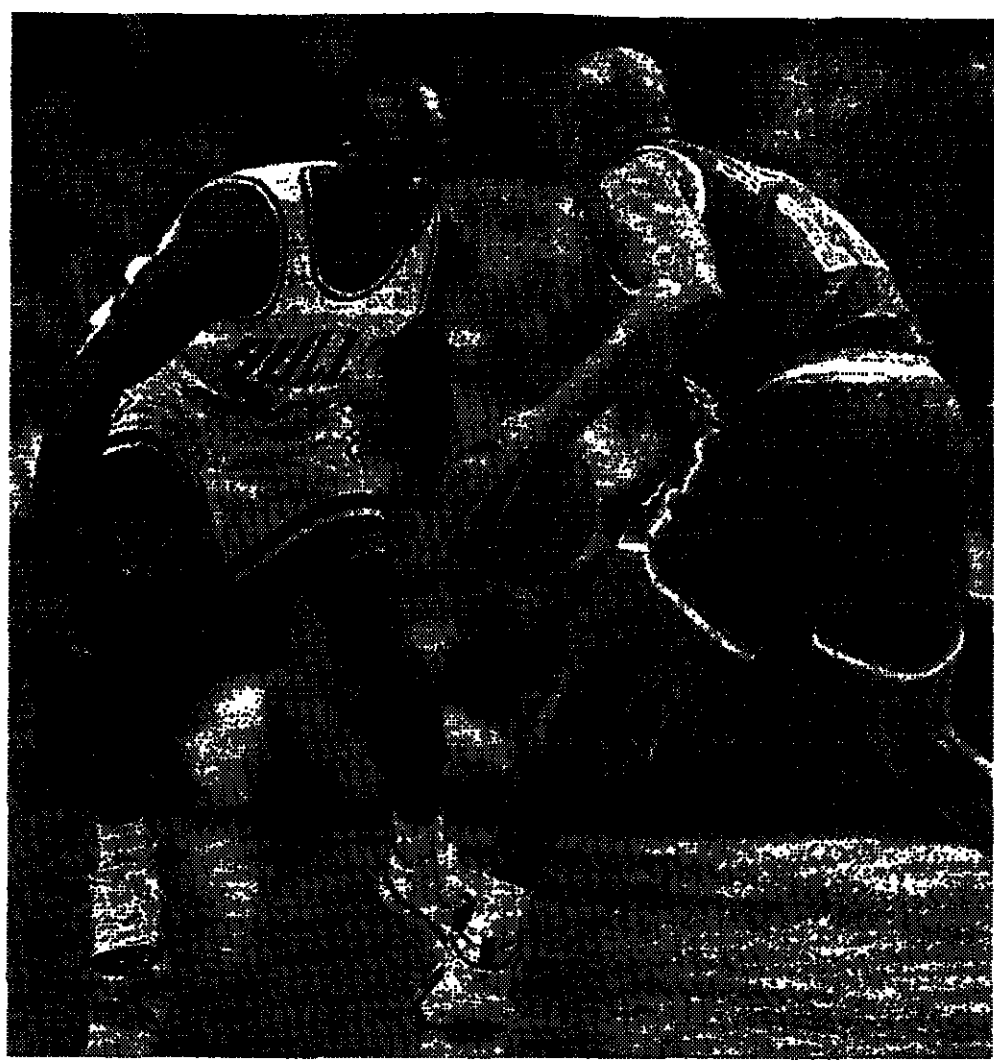
Jamal Mashburn had 22 points for the Mavericks, who lost their third straight and their 10th in the last 11 games.

Bullets 96, Hawks 79 Washington snapped a 10-game losing streak with a victory over Atlanta.

The Bullets built a 21-point lead early in the second half, and the Hawks never cut the gap below 12 points the rest of the way.

Chris Webber made 11 of 18 shots for 27 points and had 10 rebounds. Juwan Howard scored 14 points for the Bullets in their first victory over Atlanta since Jan. 5, 1993.

Rockets 112, Lakers 88 Houston snapped a five-game losing streak to Los Angeles.



Michael Jordan, left, obstructing the view upcourt of the Knicks' guard Derek Harper.

Steve Smith had 14 points for the Hawks, who shot 35 percent in their third straight loss.

Hornets 94, Cavaliers 82 Charlotte, which had been allowing opponents to shoot almost 50 percent, limited Cleveland to 39 percent.

Glen Rice scored 25 points and Larry Johnson had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the host Hornets, who won for the fifth time in seven games. Scott Burrell also scored 19.

Terrell Brandon, who was 8 for 12 from the field, led the Cavaliers with 22 points. Bobby Phillips had 20 points.

Celtics 105, Heat 101 Todd Day's tiebreaking three-pointer from the corner with 17 seconds left helped Boston beat Miami for the second time in three nights.

The Celtics defeated the Heat, 121-120, in double overtime Monday at the FleetCenter in Boston, then did it again at Miami Arena.

The Heat's Alonzo Mourning had 26 points, 13 rebounds, 9 blocked shots and 7 assists.

Dino Radja scored 22 points and Dana Barros 20 for Boston.

Timberwolves 108, Nets 87 Minnesota, playing at home, shot 70 percent in the first three quarters en route to its third victory in five games.

Isiah Rider had 20 points on 9-for-12 shooting as the Timberwolves snapped New Jersey's three-game winning streak. Christian Laettner added 18 points and seven assists for the Wolves, while Kenny Anderson scored 22 points and Jayson Williams 18 for the Nets.

Rockets 112, Lakers 88 Houston snapped a five-game losing streak to Los Angeles.

Clyde Drexler scored 19 of his 34 points in the third quarter and Hakeem Olajuwon took command in the fourth. Olajuwon, who finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds, scored 14 points in the final 7:46.

Cedric Ceballos led the visiting Lakers with 27 points and 17 rebounds.

After Hardaway hit his two free throws, the Warriors fumbled away their last chance for a tie when Latrell Sprewell lost the ball.

Magic 108, Warriors 107 In Oakland, California, Anfernee Hardaway scored 23 points, including a pair of free throws

with 23 seconds left, as Orlando outlasted Golden State.

Dennis Scott also scored 23 for the Magic in a game that included 52 fouls, six technicals and a flagrant foul.

Tim Hardaway scored 31 points and Chris Mullin 18 for the Warriors.

Blackhawks 5, Rangers 5 Pat Verbeek scored New York's fifth power-play goal of the night with 12:07 left in regulation, and the Rangers extended their home unbeaten streak to 11 games by tying Chicago.

The New York goalie, Mike Richter, made several critical saves in the final minutes of regulation, and in overtime both teams managed just one shot on goal.

Lightning 2, Mighty Ducks 1 In St. Petersburg, Florida, Alexander Selivanov scored his team-leading 16th goal and J.C. Bergeron needed to make only 17 saves for Tampa Bay.

Selivanov's game winner came on a power play at 2:03 of the second period and snapped the Lightning's two-game losing streak. It was Anaheim's fifth loss in seven games.

Wizards 7, Islanders 4 Nelson Emerson scored two power-play goals in a 71-second span as Hartford defeated the visiting Islanders.

Emerson connected on a feed by Geoff Sanderson at 5:28, then again at 6:39 on a rebound of Glen Wesley's slap shot.

Kings 6, Jets 3 Jari Kurri, Pat Conacher and Wayne Gretzky scored during a 3:4-minute span of the second period to lead Los Angeles over Winnipeg.

Gretzky also set up a pair of power-play goals and Kurri added a goal and two assists to help lift the host Kings into third place in the Western Conference standings.

Canadiens Snap Back, Downing Devils, 4-2

The Associated Press

The Montreal Canadiens had a "Patrick" in goal and a victory on the scoreboard. Things were not as they seemed, however.

It was Patrick Jablonski minding the net, not Patrick Roy, and the 4-2 victory over the New Jersey Devils was a

NHL ROUNDPUP

rarity this season, snapping Montreal's five-game winless streak.

"A win cures a lot of things," Montreal's coach, Mario Tremblay, said. "With everything happening in the last four days, we've just been talking team, team, team. And that's how we played."

Jablonski's first National Hockey League victory since Feb. 10, 1995, came just hours after Roy, the Canadiens' star goaltender, and the team's captain, Mike Keane, were traded to the Colorado Avalanche.

Andrei Kovalenko, one of three players that Montreal received in the trade, became a crowd favorite right away Wednesday night when he dug the puck out from behind the net to feed Vincent Damphousse for a power-play goal 3:18 into the match.

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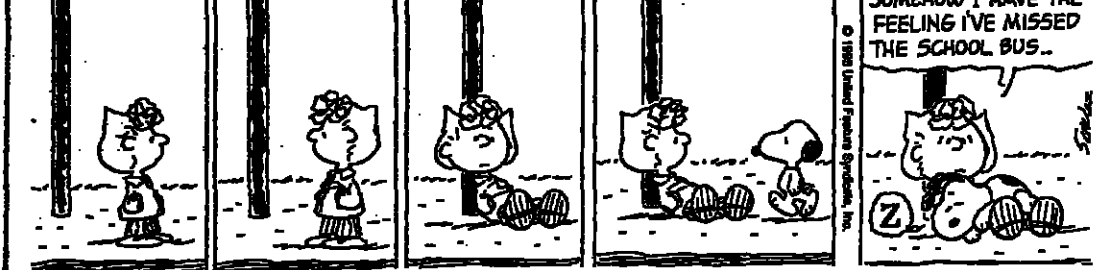
Gretzky also set up a pair of power-play goals and Kurri added a goal and two assists to help lift the host Kings into third place in the Western Conference standings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WE TOOK TURNIPS BEING GOOD THIS YEAR."

PEANUTS



SOMEHOW I HAVE THE FEELING I'VE MISSED THE SCHOOL BUS...

CALVIN AND HOBBES



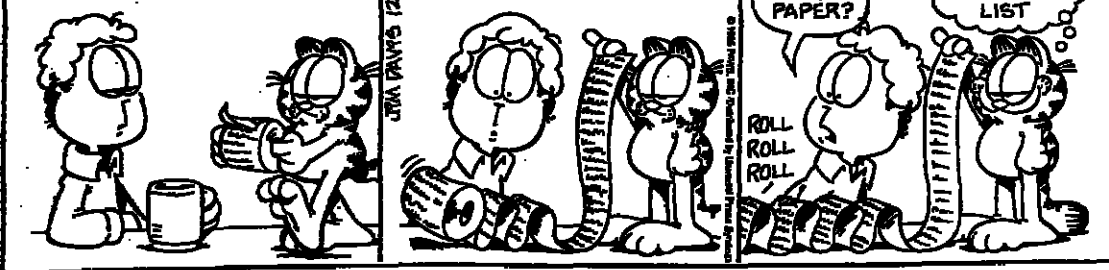
DEAR SANTA, BEFORE I SUBMIT MY LIST TO YOUR MORAL SCRUTINY, I DESIRE TO KNOW WHO MADE YOU THE MASTER OF MY FATE?

WHO MADE YOU TO QUESTION MY BEHAVIOR, WHO PUT WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT?

SANTA MAKES THE TOYS, SO HE GETS TO DECIDE WHO TO GIVE THEM TO

TIME TO PREPARE MY APPELLATE CASE.

GARFIELD



TOILET PAPER?

CHRISTMAS LIST

ROLL ROLL ROLL

ROLL ROLL ROLL

WIZARD OF ID



WHAT'S THE SPECIAL?

RABBIT, STUFFED WITH LETTUCE

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT

YOU DON'T HAVE A GARDEN

BEETLE BAILEY



HI, BALDY!

BRACK!

I'M GONNA GET YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

YOU IDIOT!

THE FAR SIDE



LOOK OUT, THAT'S A - a - Dang! Never can pronounce those things!

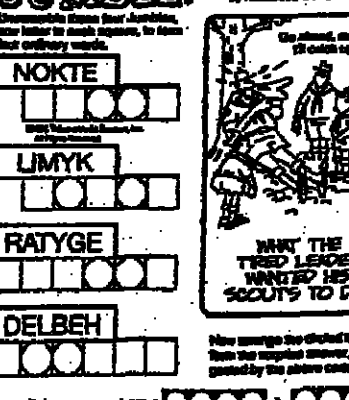
BLONDIE



I HAD THE CAR POOL DUMP ME OFF SO WE CAN GO TO THE MOVIES FROM HERE

I'LL GET MY COAT

JUMBLE



Print answer here: 0000000000000000

DOONESBURY



HELLO, DOONESBURY! I'VE BEEN IN RESEARCH IT AND HERE'S THE RESULTS!

A LOT OF NEW PLAYERS, DUCK, AND THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN THE OLD OUT-IT.

WE GOT NEW MANAGEMENT HERE, AND THEY'RE THE JOINT MUCH MORE LIKE A BUSINESS. THESE GUYS ARE REALLY COLD, TOTALLY RUTHLESS!

NOT THE FAMILY MOST

NO, NO, TIME-MARKER.

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